My secret is...

# AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

1

EMA TOYAMA

# AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

# CONTENTS

Time: 1

PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING.

3

Time: 2

WHY DON'T YOU GET ME TO TALK?

53

Time: 3

IT'S OKAY IF IT'S NOT TRUE.

89

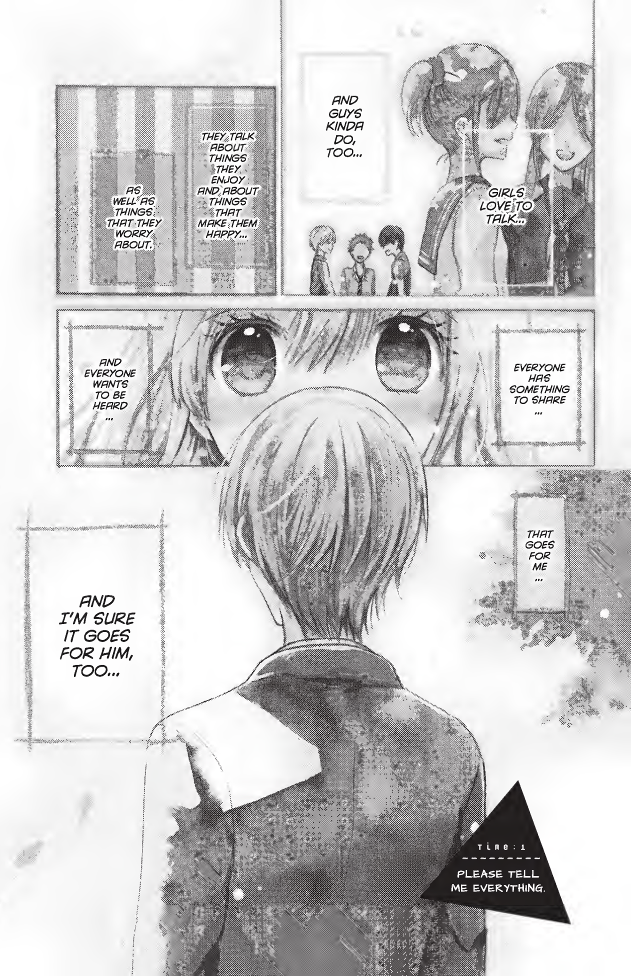
Time: 4

THAT'S FINE.

125

PREVIOUSLY UNPUBLISHED
EXTRA EDITION
~ ONE DAY AT THE LISTENING HOUSE ~

161


GIRLS LOVE TO TALK...
AND GUYS KINDA DO, TOO...
THEY TALK ABOUT THINGS THEY ENJOY AND ABOUT THINGS THAT MAKE THEM HAPPY...
AS WELL AS THINGS THAT THEY WORRY ABOUT.
EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING TO SHARE...
AND EVERYONE WANTS TO BE HEARD...
THAT GOES FOR ME...
AND I'M SURE IT GOES FOR HIM, TOO...

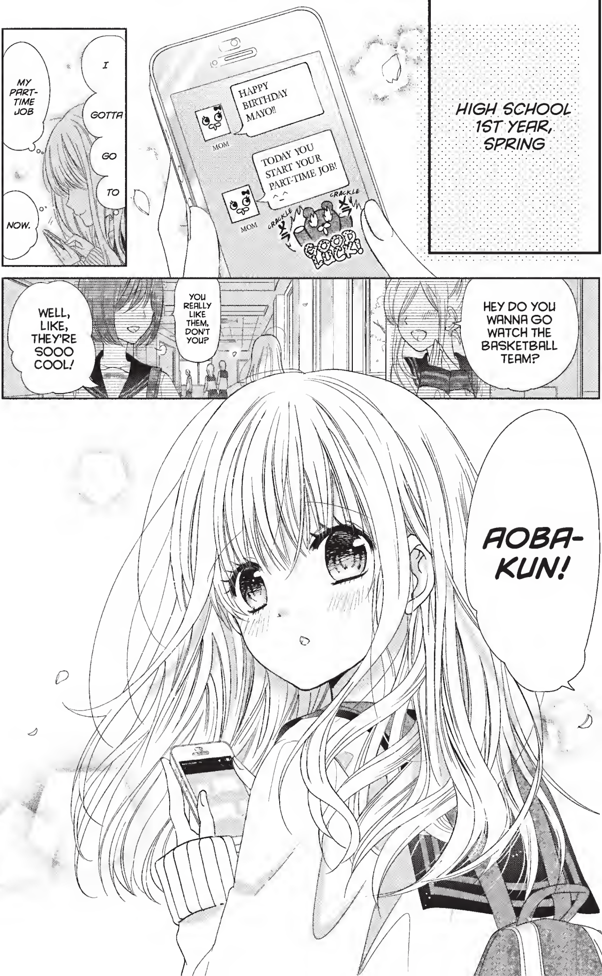
## Time : 1

## PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING.

## Time : 1

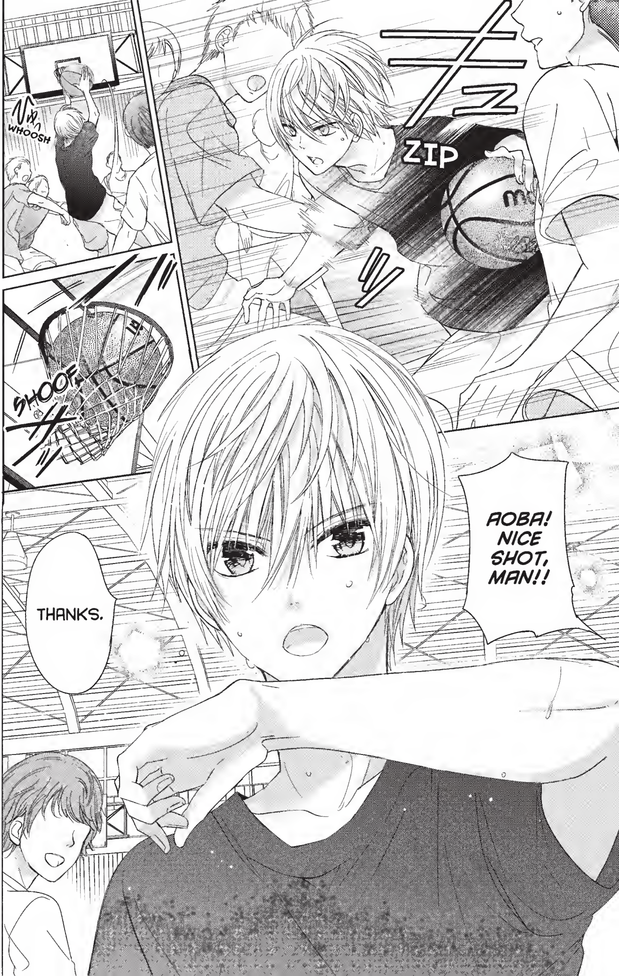
## PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING.

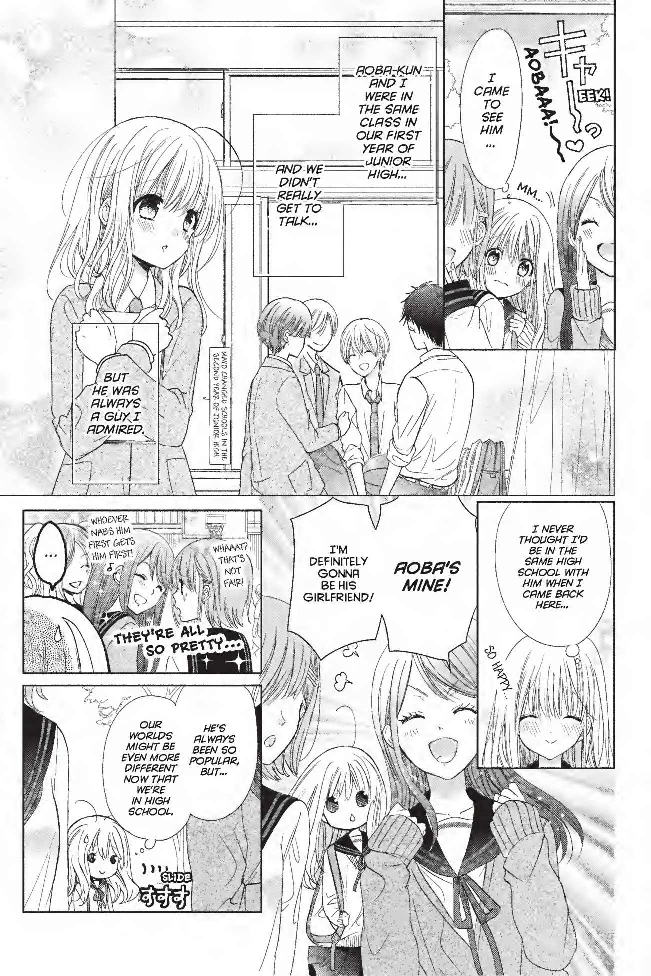
AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

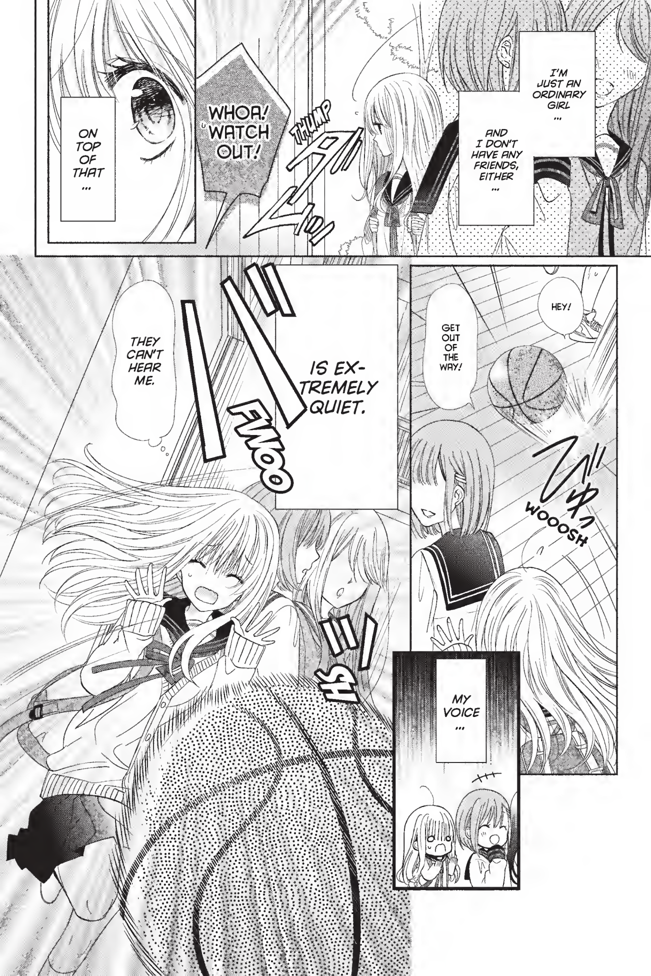

HIGH SCHOOL 1ST YEAR, SPRING
MOM
MOM
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
GOOD LUCK!
I
GOTTA
GO
TO
MY PART-TIME JOB
NOW.
HEY DO YOU WANNA GO WATCH THE BASKETBALL TEAM?
YOU REALLY LIKE THEM, DON'T YOU?
WELL, LIKE, THEY'RE SOOO COOL!
AOBA-KUN!

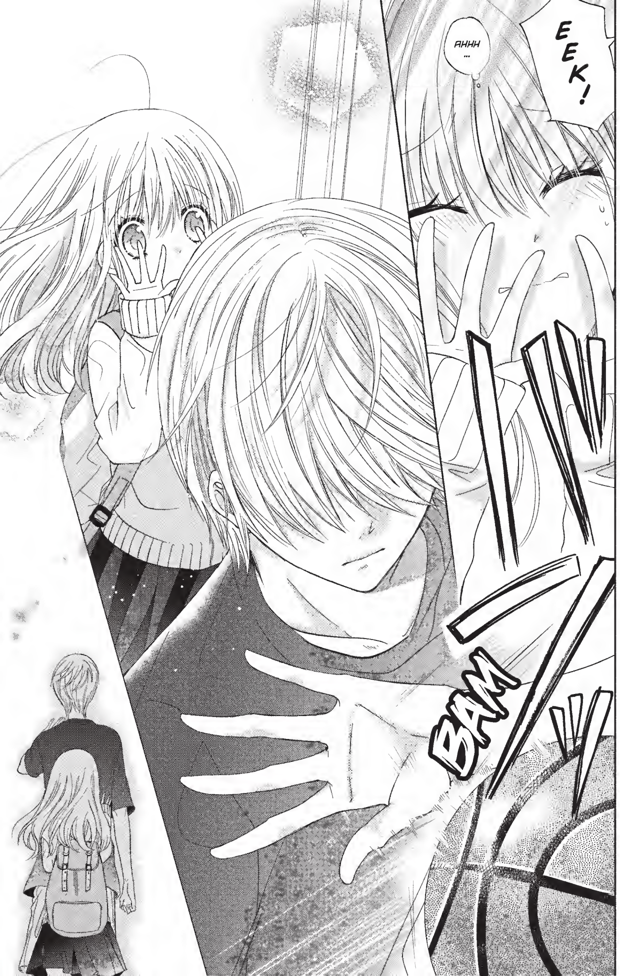
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAYO!!

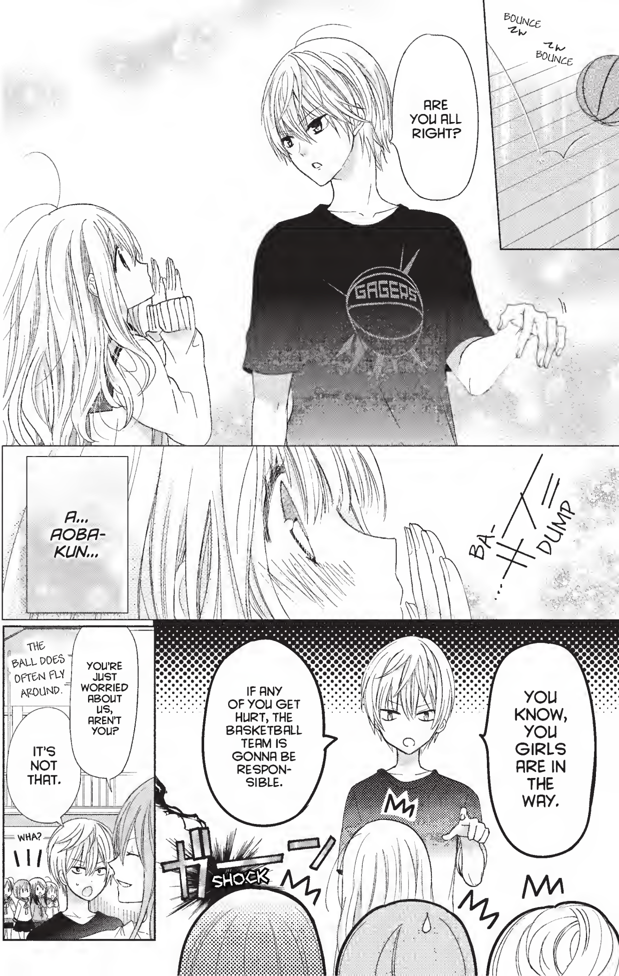
TODAY YOU START YOUR PART-TIME JOB! ^_^

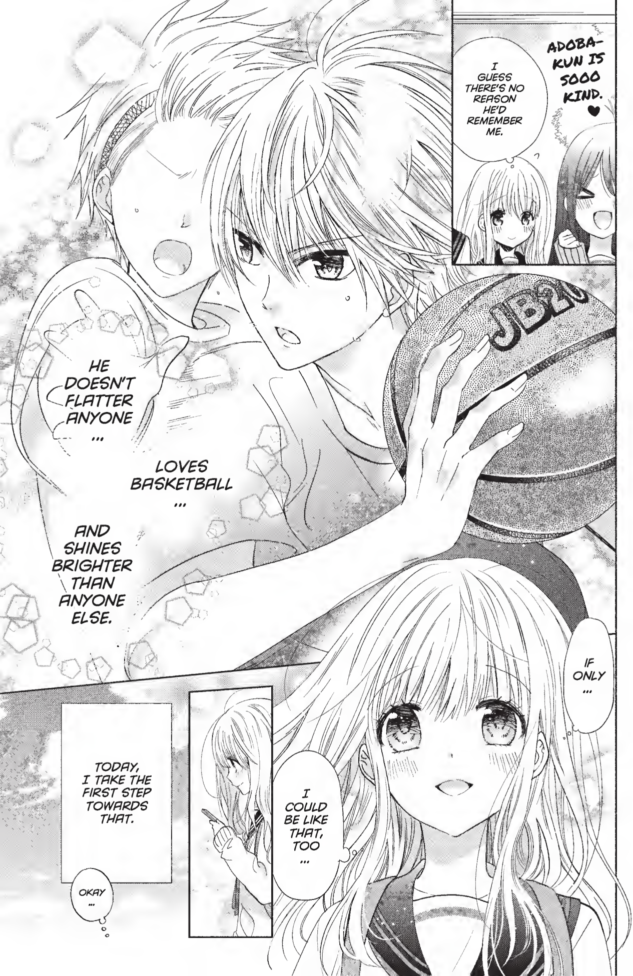

ZIP
WHOOSH
SHOOF
AOBA! NICE SHOT, MAN!!
THANKS.

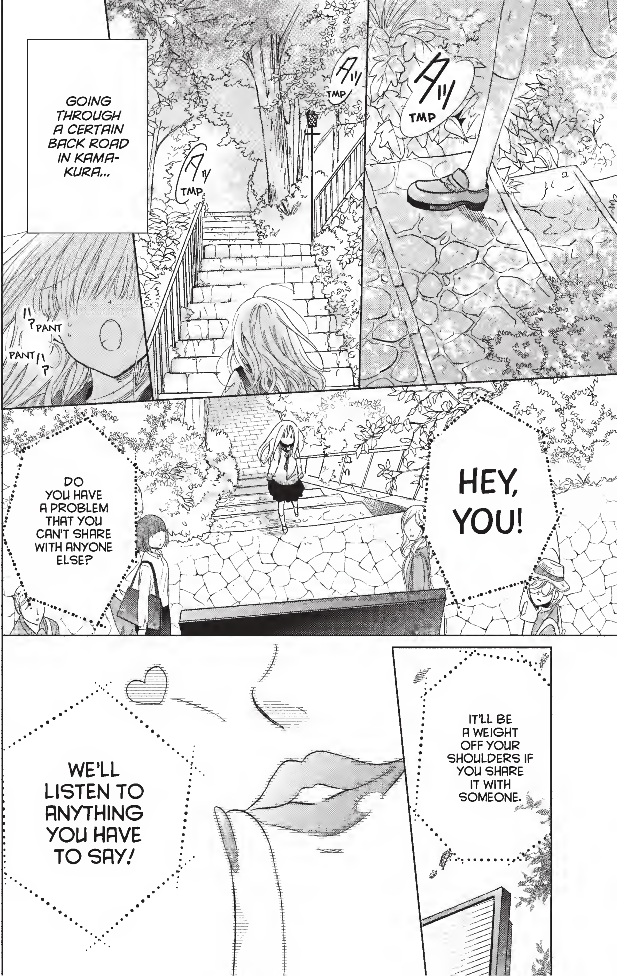

キャ〜っ
AOBAAA!
EEK!
I CAME TO SEE HIM...
MM...
AOBA-KUN AND I WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN OUR FIRST YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH...
AND WE DIDN'T REALLY GET TO TALK...
MAYO CHANGED SCHOOLS IN THE SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH
BUT HE WAS ALWAYS A GUY I ADMIRED.
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE IN THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL WITH HIM WHEN I CAME BACK HERE...
SO HAPPY...
AOBA'S MINE!
I'M DEFINITELY GONNA BE HIS GIRLFRIEND!
WHOEVER NABS HIM FIRST GETS HIM FIRST! ♪
WHAAAT? THAT'S NOT FAIR!
...
THEY'RE ALL SO PRETTY...
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN SO POPULAR, BUT...
OUR WORLDS MIGHT BE EVEN MORE DIFFERENT NOW THAT WE'RE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
すすす
SLIDE

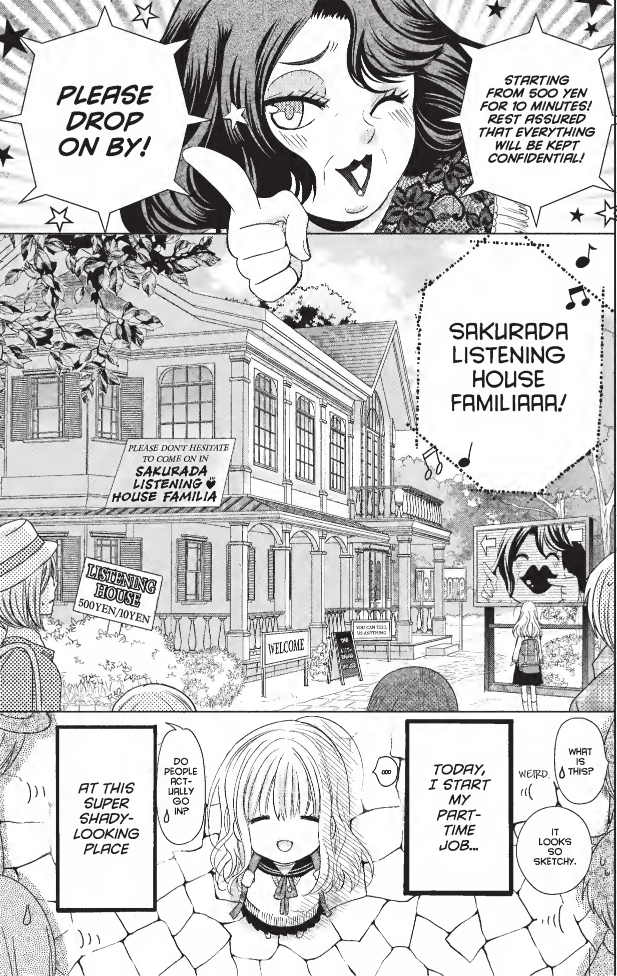

I'M JUST AN ORDINARY GIRL ...
AND I DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, EITHER ...
WHOA! WATCH OUT!
THUMP
ON TOP OF THAT ...
HEY!
GET OUT OF THE WAY!
WOOOSH
MY VOICE ...
IS EX-TREMELY QUIET.
THEY CAN'T HEAR ME.
FWOO
SH

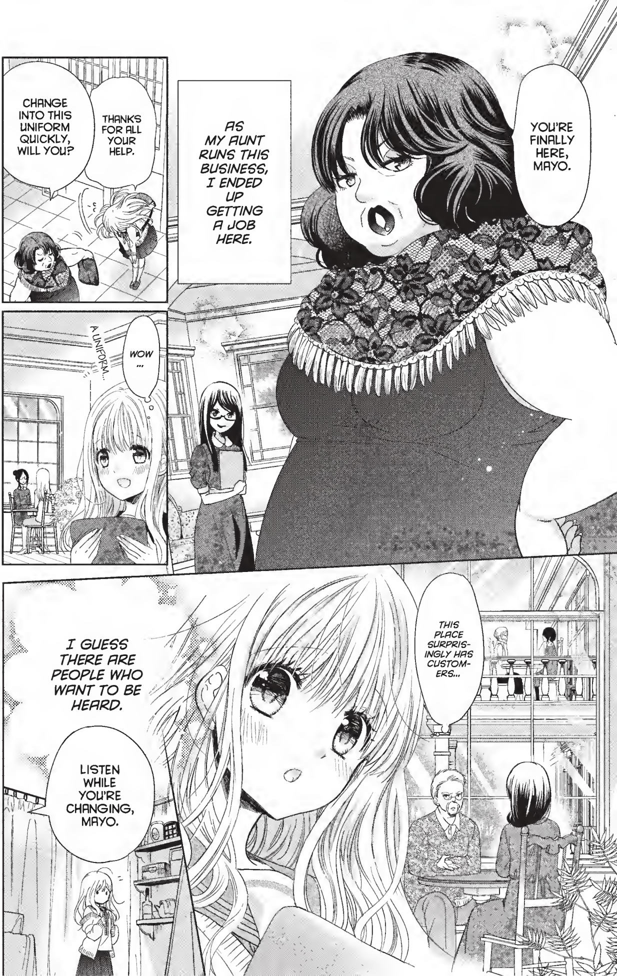

EEK!
AHHH ...
BAM

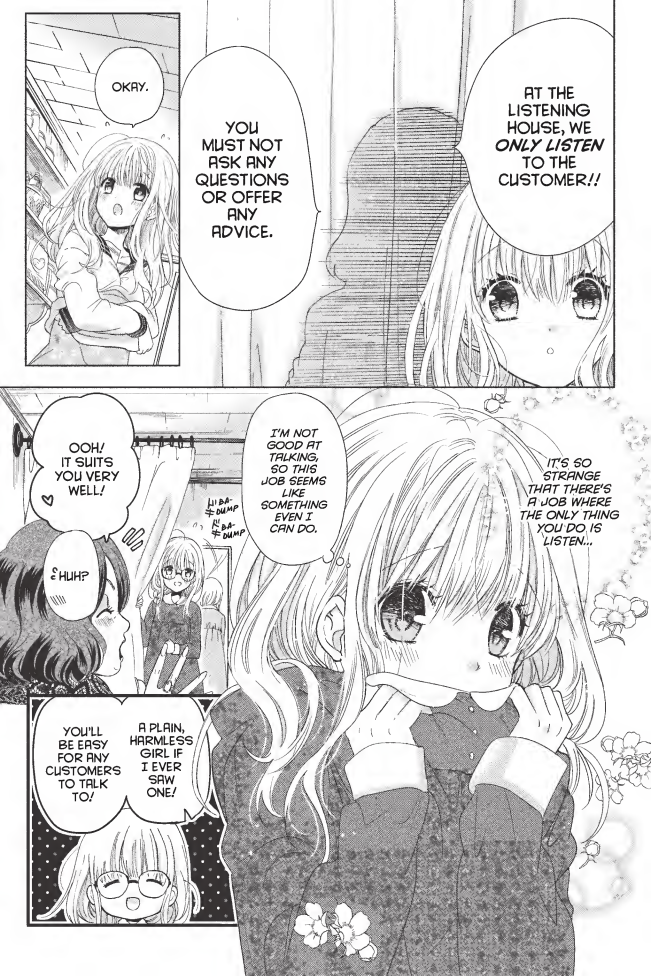

BOUNCE
BOUNCE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
BA-DUMP
A... AOBA-KUN...
YOU KNOW, YOU GIRLS ARE IN THE WAY.
IF ANY OF YOU GET HURT, THE BASKETBALL TEAM IS GONNA BE RESPONSIBLE.
SHOCK
YOU'RE JUST WORRIED ABOUT US, AREN'T YOU?
IT'S NOT THAT.
WHA?
THE BALL DOES OFTEN FLY AROUND.

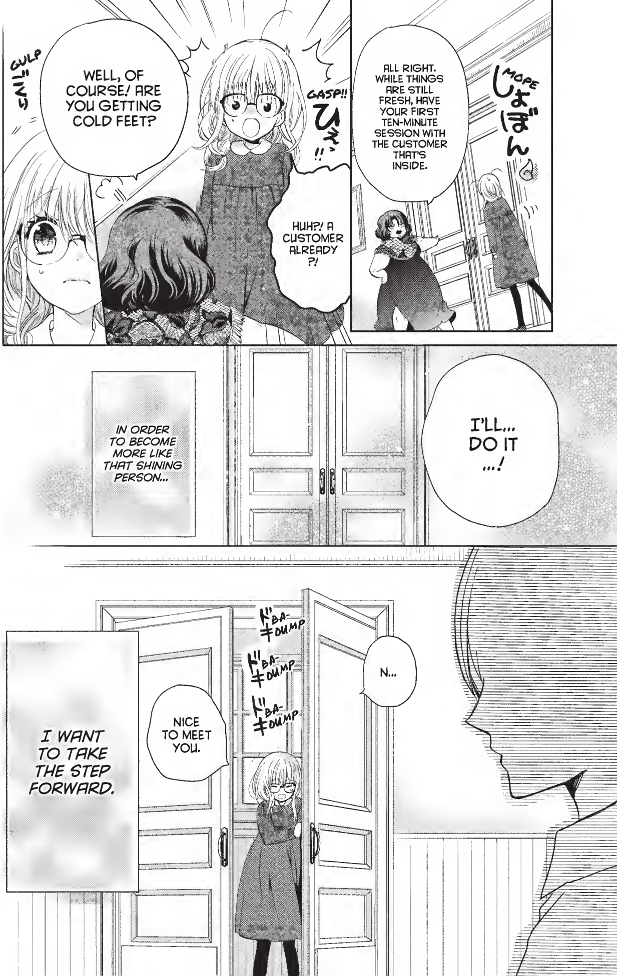

ADOBA-KUN IS SOOO KIND. ♥
I GUESS THERE'S NO REASON HE'D REMEMBER ME.
JB20
HE DOESN'T FLATTER ANYONE ...
LOVES BASKETBALL ...
AND SHINES BRIGHTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
IF ONLY ...
I COULD BE LIKE THAT, TOO ...
TODAY, I TAKE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THAT.
OKAY ...

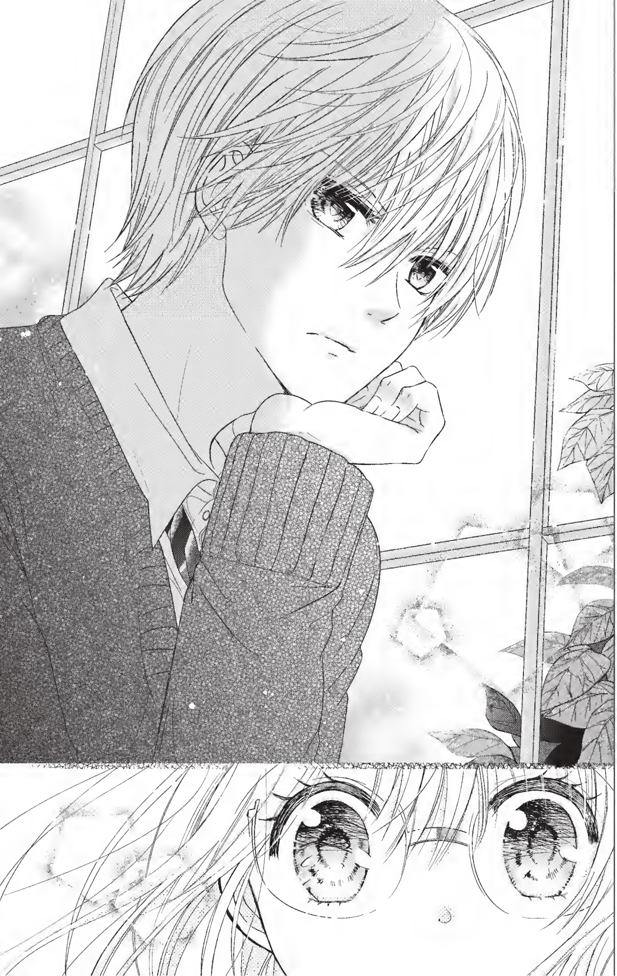

タッ TMP
GOING THROUGH A CERTAIN BACK ROAD IN KAMAKURA...
タッ TMP
タッ TMP
ハァ PANT
PANT ハァ
HEY, YOU!
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM THAT YOU CAN'T SHARE WITH ANYONE ELSE?
IT'LL BE A WEIGHT OFF YOUR SHOULDERS IF YOU SHARE IT WITH SOMEONE.
WE'LL LISTEN TO ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SAY!

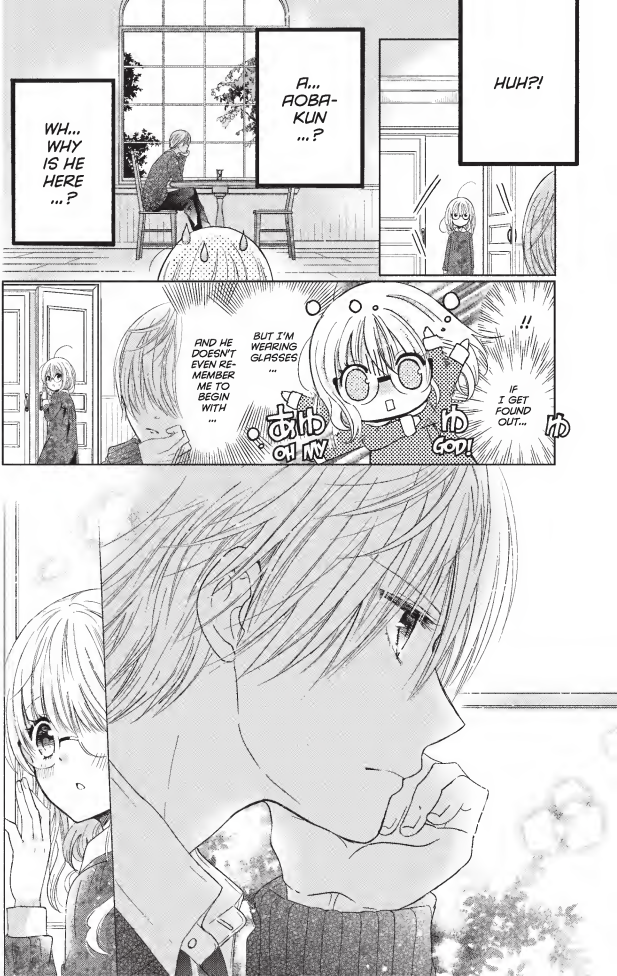

STARTING FROM 500 YEN FOR 10 MINUTES! REST ASSURED THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL!
PLEASE DROP ON BY!
SAKURADA LISTENING HOUSE FAMILIAAA!
PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO COME ON IN
SAKURADA LISTENING ♥ HOUSE FAMILIA
YOU CAN TELL US ANYTHING
THE LISTENING HOUSE
WELCOME
LISTENING HOUSE
500YEN/10YEN
Welcome
WHAT IS THIS?
WEIRD.
IT LOOKS SO SKETCHY.
TODAY, I START MY PART-TIME JOB...
...
DO PEOPLE ACT-UALLY GO IN?
AT THIS SUPER SHADY-LOOKING PLACE

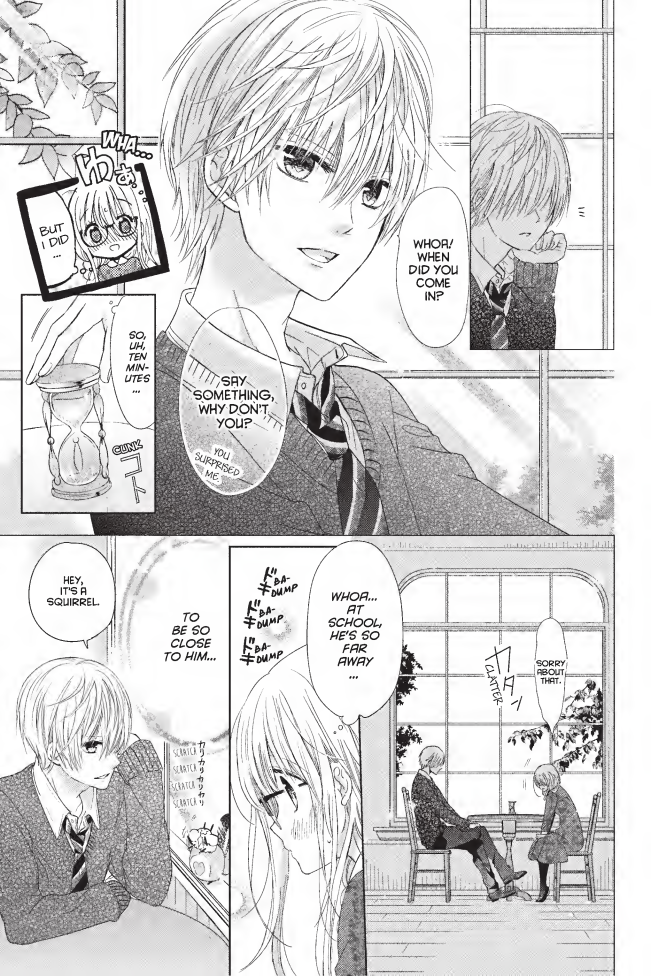

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE, MAYO.
AS MY AUNT RUNS THIS BUSINESS, I ENDED UP GETTING A JOB HERE.
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP.
CHANGE INTO THIS UNIFORM QUICKLY, WILL YOU?
WOW...
A UNIFORM...
THIS PLACE SURPRISINGLY HAS CUSTOMERS...
I GUESS THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE HEARD.
LISTEN WHILE YOU'RE CHANGING, MAYO.

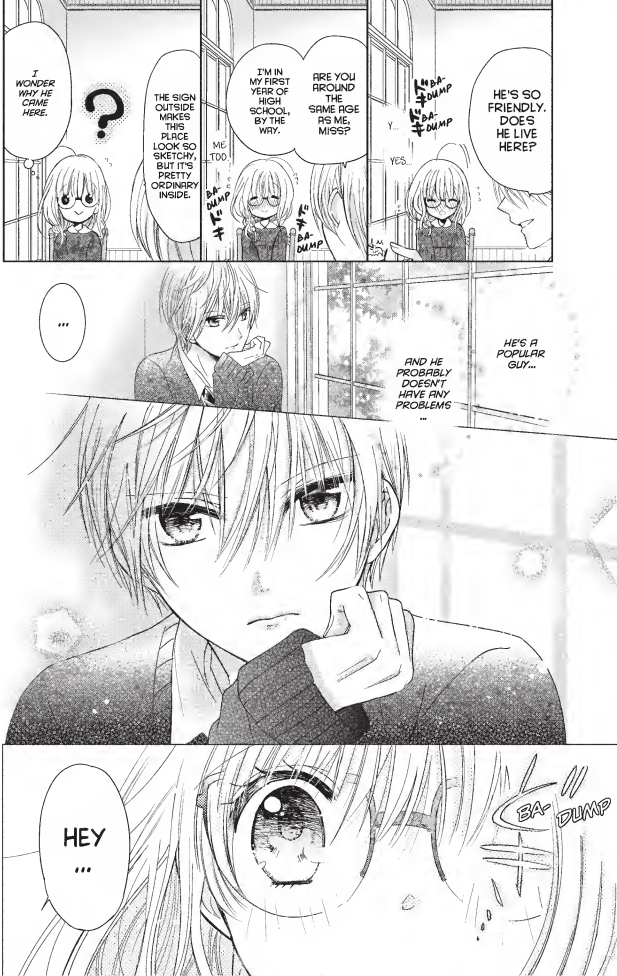

AT THE LISTENING HOUSE, WE *ONLY LISTEN* TO THE CUSTOMER!!
YOU MUST NOT ASK ANY QUESTIONS OR OFFER ANY ADVICE.
OKAY.
*IT'S SO STRANGE THAT THERE'S A JOB WHERE THE ONLY THING YOU DO IS LISTEN...*
*I'M NOT GOOD AT TALKING, SO THIS JOB SEEMS LIKE SOMETHING EVEN I CAN DO.*
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
OOH! IT SUITS YOU VERY WELL!
HUH?
A PLAIN, HARMLESS GIRL IF I EVER SAW ONE!
YOU'LL BE EASY FOR ANY CUSTOMERS TO TALK TO!

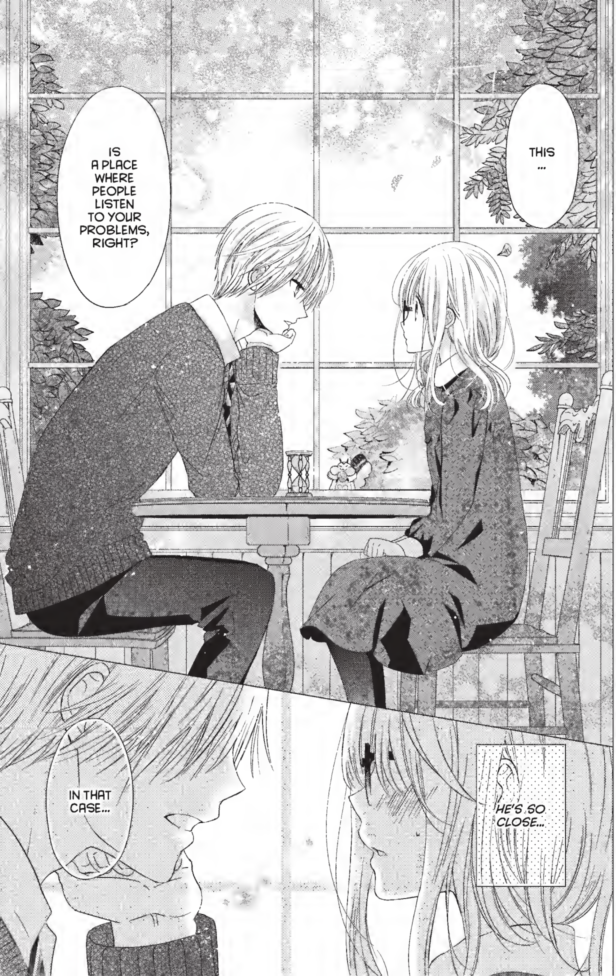

MOPE じょぼん
ALL RIGHT. WHILE THINGS ARE STILL FRESH, HAVE YOUR FIRST TEN-MINUTE SESSION WITH THE CUSTOMER THAT'S INSIDE.
GASP!! ひぇっ!!
HUH?! A CUSTOMER ALREADY?!
WELL, OF COURSE! ARE YOU GETTING COLD FEET?
GULP ゴクリ
I'LL... DO IT ...!
IN ORDER TO BECOME MORE LIKE THAT SHINING PERSON...
N...
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
NICE TO MEET YOU.
I WANT TO TAKE THE STEP FORWARD.

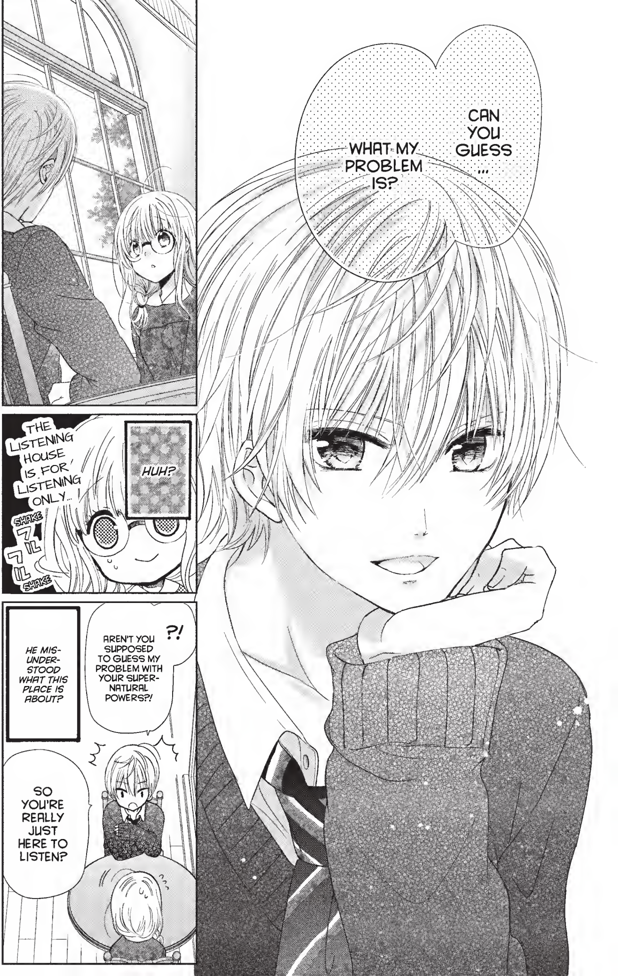


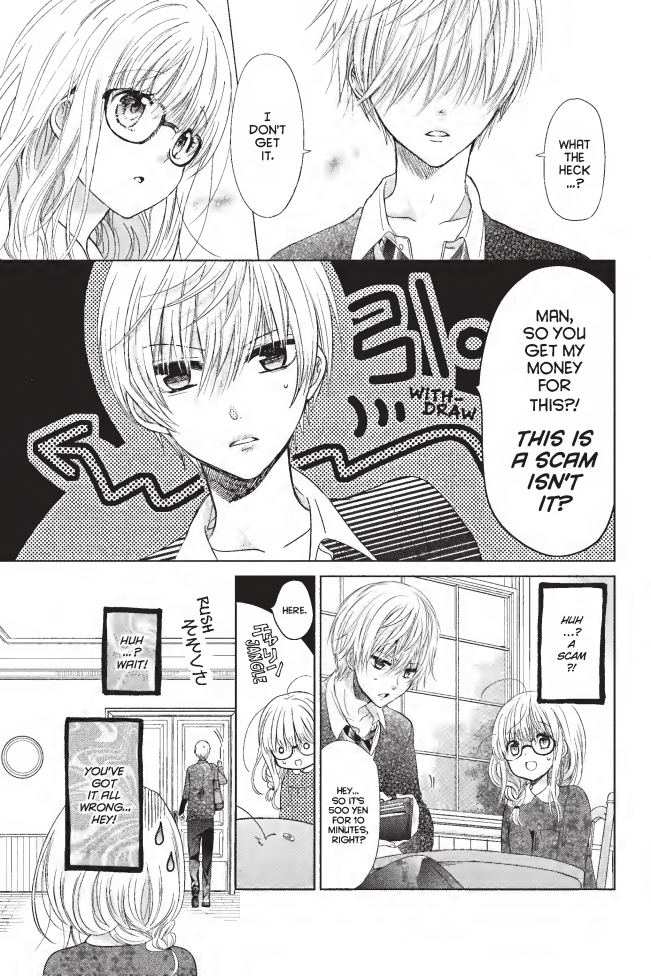

HUH?!
A... AOBA-KUN ...?
WH... WHY IS HE HERE ...?
!!
わ
IF I GET FOUND OUT...
わ GOD!
BUT I'M WEARING GLASSES ...
あわ OH MY
AND HE DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER ME TO BEGIN WITH ...

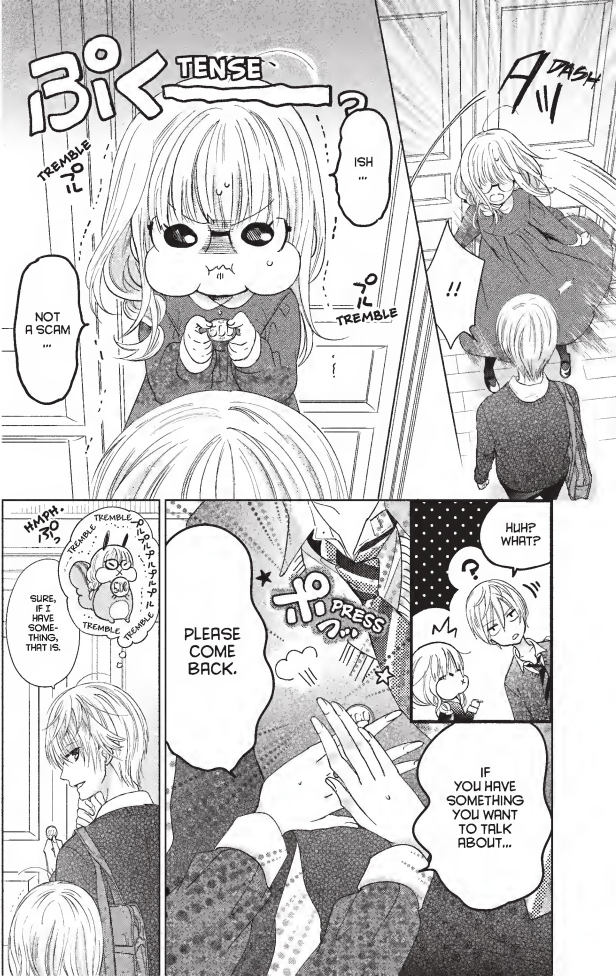

WHOA! WHEN DID YOU COME IN?
SAY SOMETHING, WHY DON'T YOU?
YOU SURPRISED ME.
WHA... わぁ。。。
BUT I DID ...
SO, UH, TEN MINUTES ...
CLUNK コト
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
CLATTER カタン
WHOA... AT SCHOOL, HE'S SO FAR AWAY ...
BA-DUMP ドキ
BA-DUMP ドキ
BA-DUMP ドキ
TO BE SO CLOSE TO HIM...
HEY, IT'S A SQUIRREL.
SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH SCRATCH カリカリカリカリ

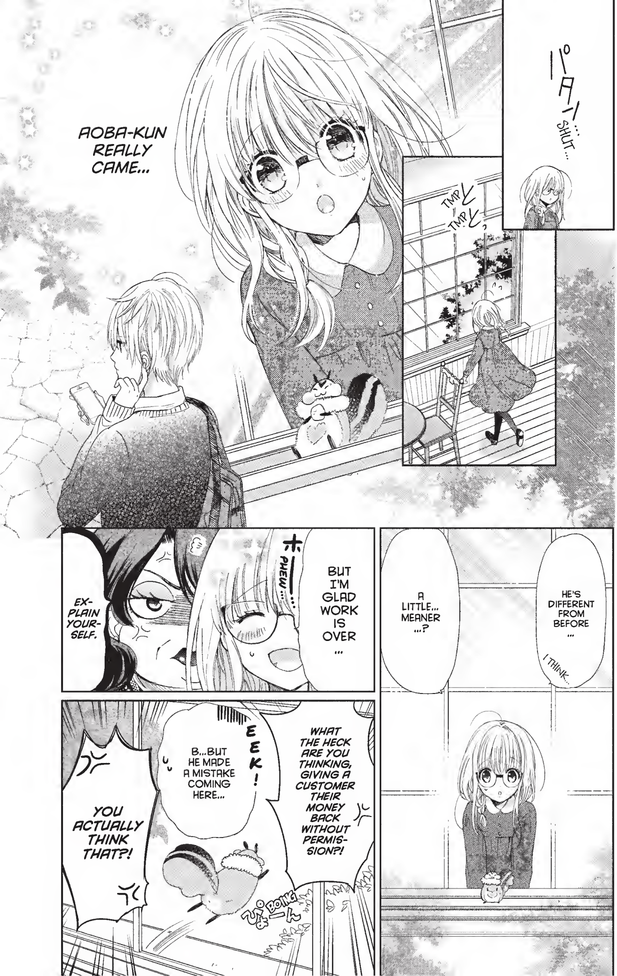

HE'S SO FRIENDLY. DOES HE LIVE HERE?
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
Y...
YES...
ARE YOU AROUND THE SAME AGE AS ME, MISS?
I'M IN MY FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL, BY THE WAY.
ME TOO.
ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
THE SIGN OUTSIDE MAKES THIS PLACE LOOK SO SKETCHY, BUT IT'S PRETTY ORDINARY INSIDE.
?
I WONDER WHY HE CAME HERE.
HE'S A POPULAR GUY...
AND HE PROBABLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS...
...
BA-DUMP
HEY...

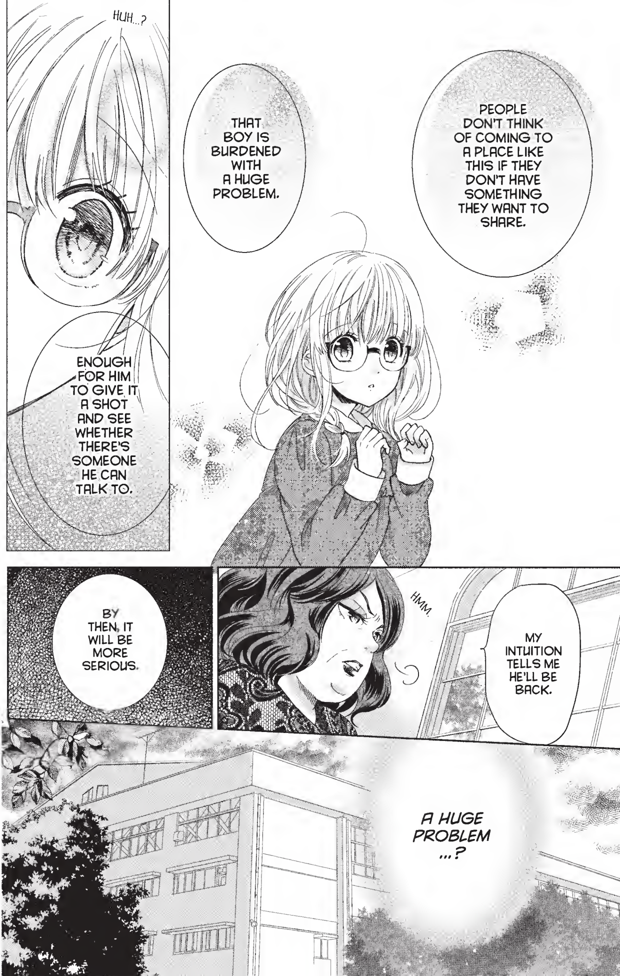

THIS ...
IS A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE LISTEN TO YOUR PROBLEMS, RIGHT?
HE'S SO CLOSE...
IN THAT CASE...

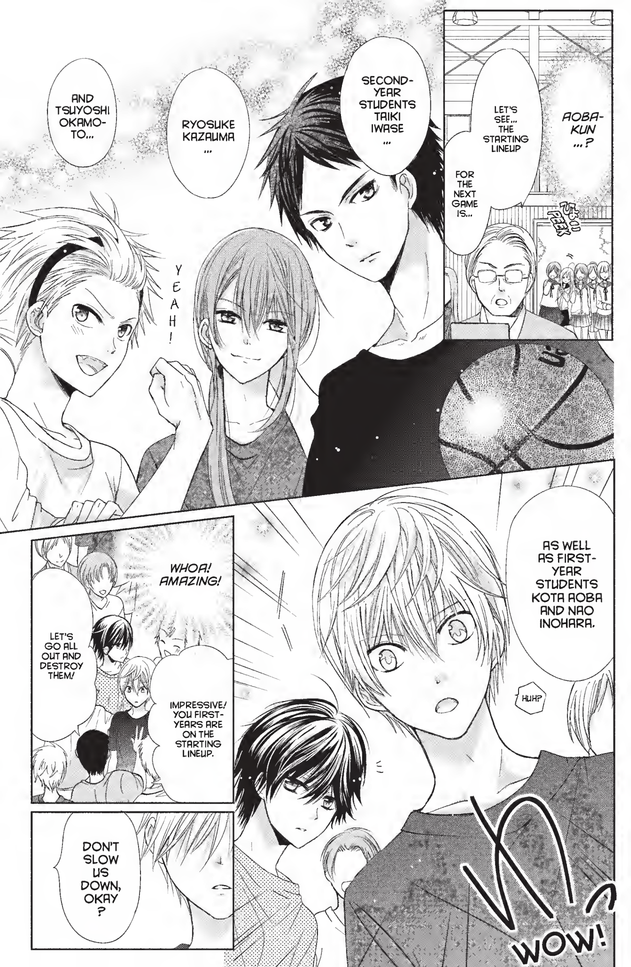

CAN YOU GUESS... WHAT MY PROBLEM IS?
HUH?
THE LISTENING HOUSE IS FOR LISTENING ONLY...
SHAKE SHAKE
フルフル
?!
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO GUESS MY PROBLEM WITH YOUR SUPERNATURAL POWERS?!
HE MISUNDERSTOOD WHAT THIS PLACE IS ABOUT?
SO YOU'RE REALLY JUST HERE TO LISTEN?

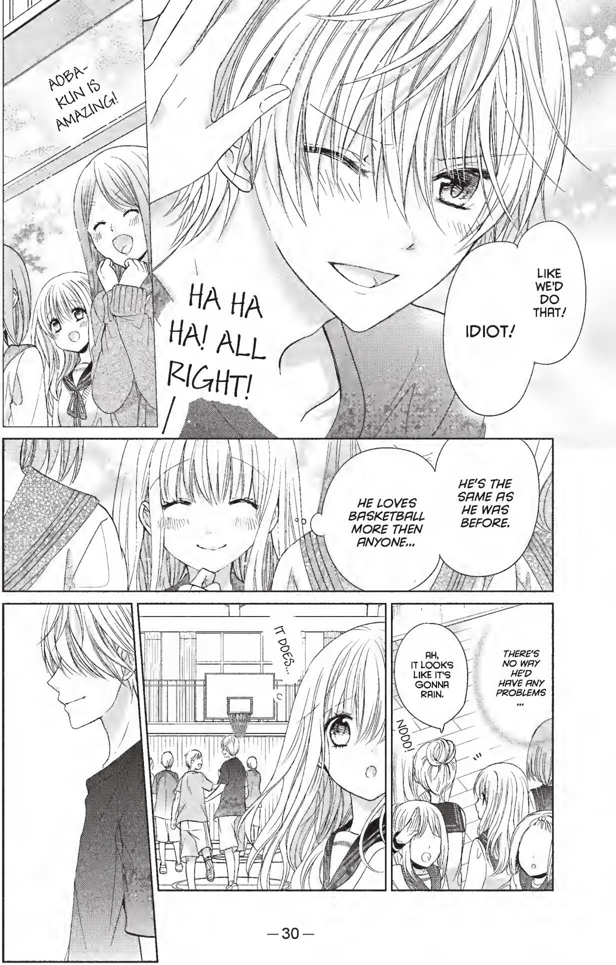

WHAT THE HECK ...?
I DON'T GET IT.
MAN, SO YOU GET MY MONEY FOR THIS?!
THIS IS A SCAM ISN'T IT?
WITH-DRAW
HUH ...? A SCAM ?!
HEY... SO IT'S 500 YEN FOR 10 MINUTES, RIGHT?
HERE.
チャリン JANGLE
そそくさ RUSH
HUH ...? WAIT!
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG... HEY!

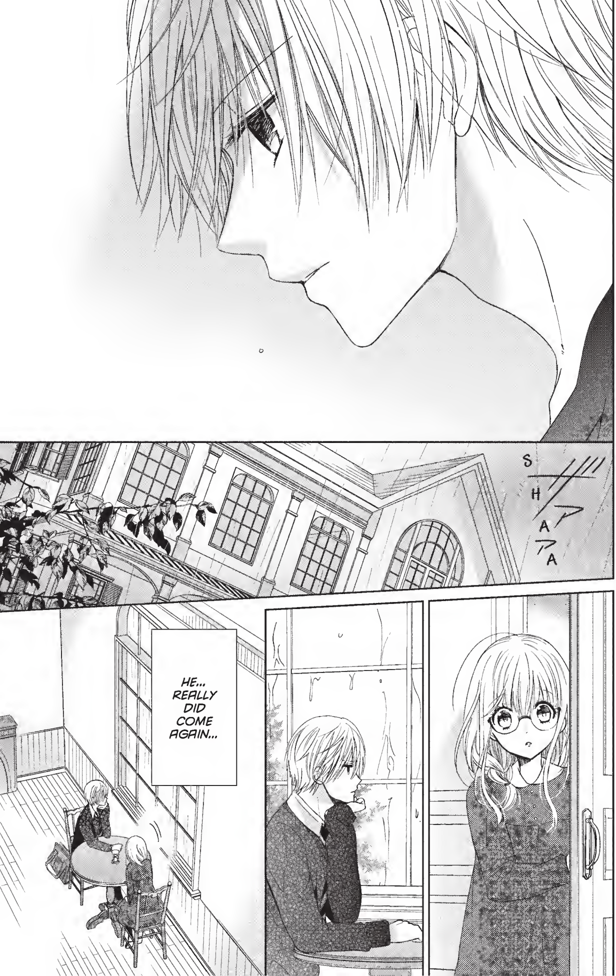

ダッ
DASH
!!
ぷく
TENSE
?
ISH …
ぷル
TREMBLE
ぷル
TREMBLE
NOT A SCAM …
HUH? WHAT?
?
IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT…
ぷっ
PRESS
PLEASE COME BACK.
ぷっ
HMPH.
プルプルプルプル
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
500
SURE, IF I HAVE SOMETHING, THAT IS.

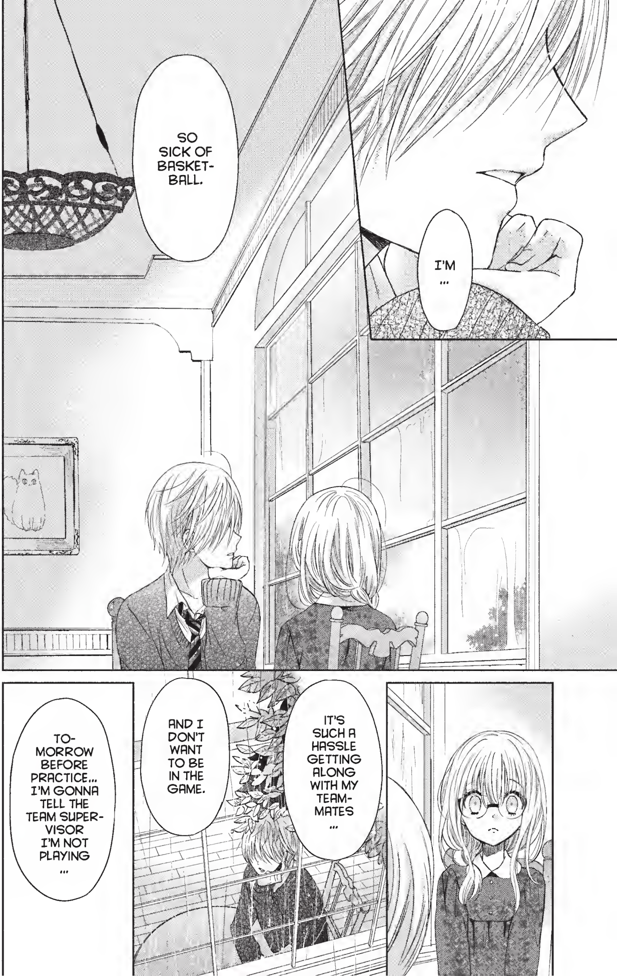

パタン
SHUT...
TMP と
TMP と
AOBA-KUN REALLY CAME...
HE'S DIFFERENT FROM BEFORE...
I THINK...
A LITTLE... MEANER ...?
ホー
PHEW...
BUT I'M GLAD WORK IS OVER...
EX-PLAIN YOUR-SELF.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU THINKING, GIVING A CUSTOMER THEIR MONEY BACK WITHOUT PERMISSION?!
EEK!
B...BUT HE MADE A MISTAKE COMING HERE...
YOU ACTUALLY THINK THAT?!
ぴょーん
BOING

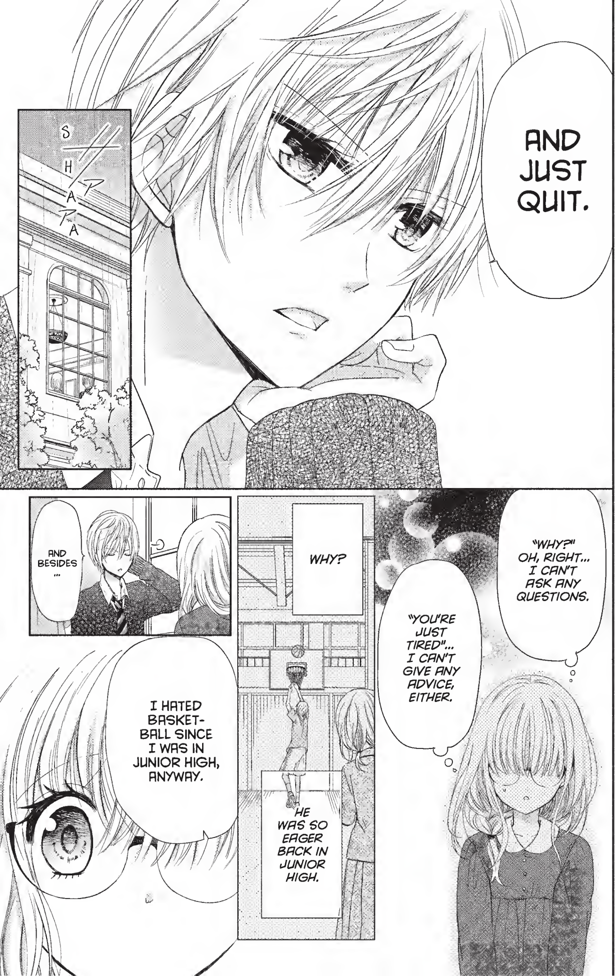

PEOPLE DON'T THINK OF COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS IF THEY DON'T HAVE SOMETHING THEY WANT TO SHARE.
THAT BOY IS BURDENED WITH A HUGE PROBLEM.
HUH...?
ENOUGH FOR HIM TO GIVE IT A SHOT AND SEE WHETHER THERE'S SOMEONE HE CAN TALK TO.
HMM.
MY INTUITION TELLS ME HE'LL BE BACK.
BY THEN, IT WILL BE MORE SERIOUS.
A HUGE PROBLEM ...?

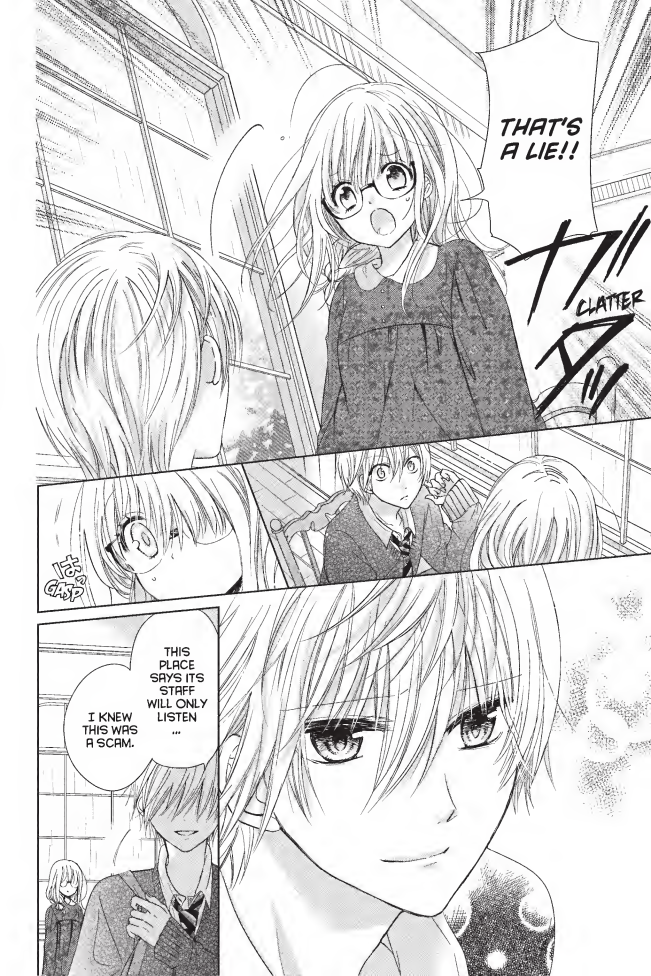

AOBA-KUN ...?
LET'S SEE... THE STARTING LINEUP
FOR THE NEXT GAME IS...
PEEK
SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS TAIKI IWASE ...
RYOSUKE KAZAUMA ...
AND TSUYOSHI OKAMOTO...
YEAH!
AS WELL AS FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS KOTA AOBA AND NAO INOHARA.
HUH?
WHOA! AMAZING!
IMPRESSIVE! YOU FIRST-YEARS ARE ON THE STARTING LINEUP.
LET'S GO ALL OUT AND DESTROY THEM!
WOW!
DON'T SLOW US DOWN, OKAY?

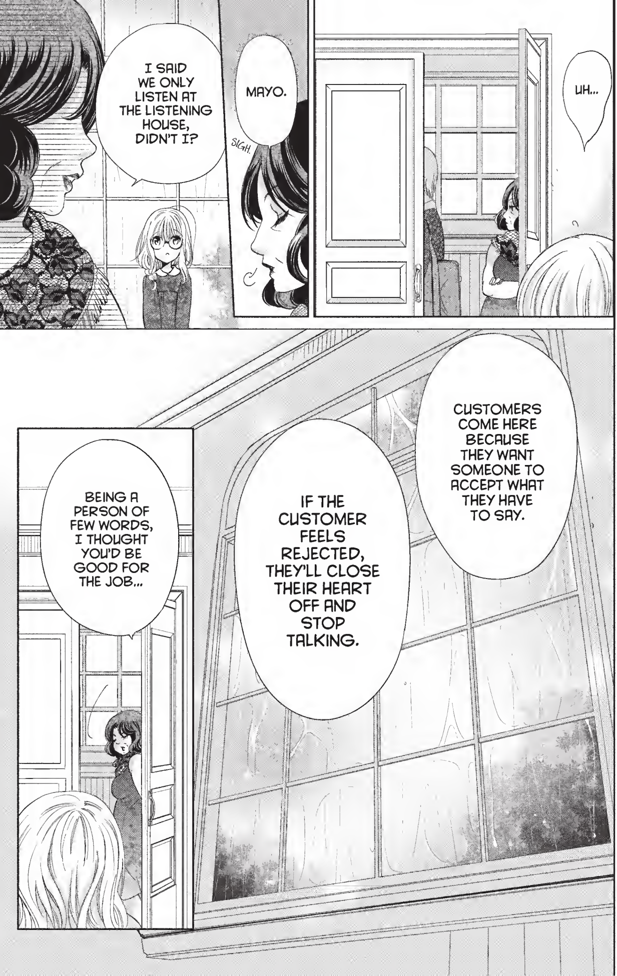

LIKE WE'D DO THAT!
IDIOT!
HA HA HA! ALL RIGHT!
AOBA-KUN IS AMAZING!
HE'S THE SAME AS HE WAS BEFORE.
HE LOVES BASKETBALL MORE THEN ANYONE...
THERE'S NO WAY HE'D HAVE ANY PROBLEMS ...
AH, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN.
NOOO!
...
IT DOES...

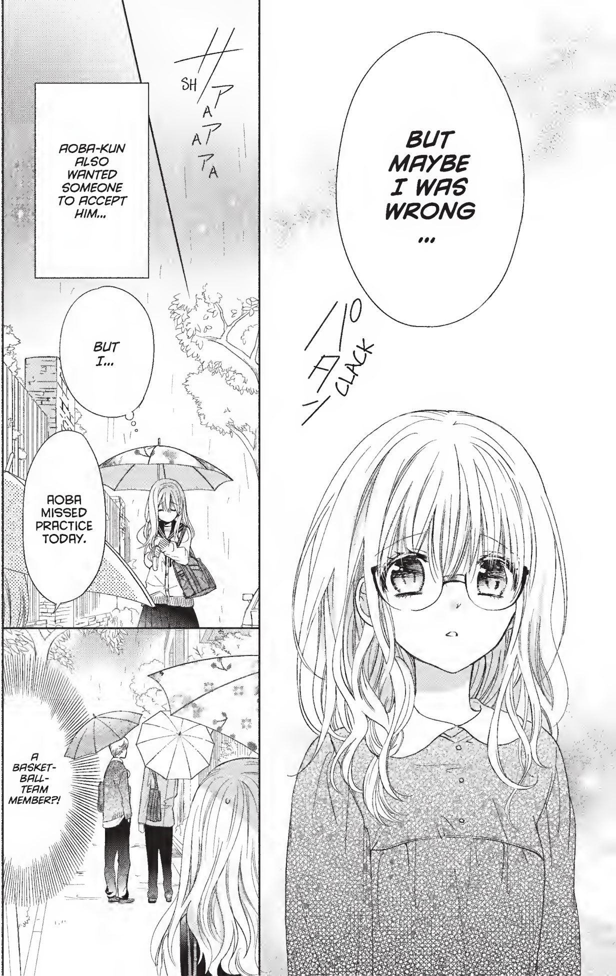

SHAA
HE... REALLY DID COME AGAIN...

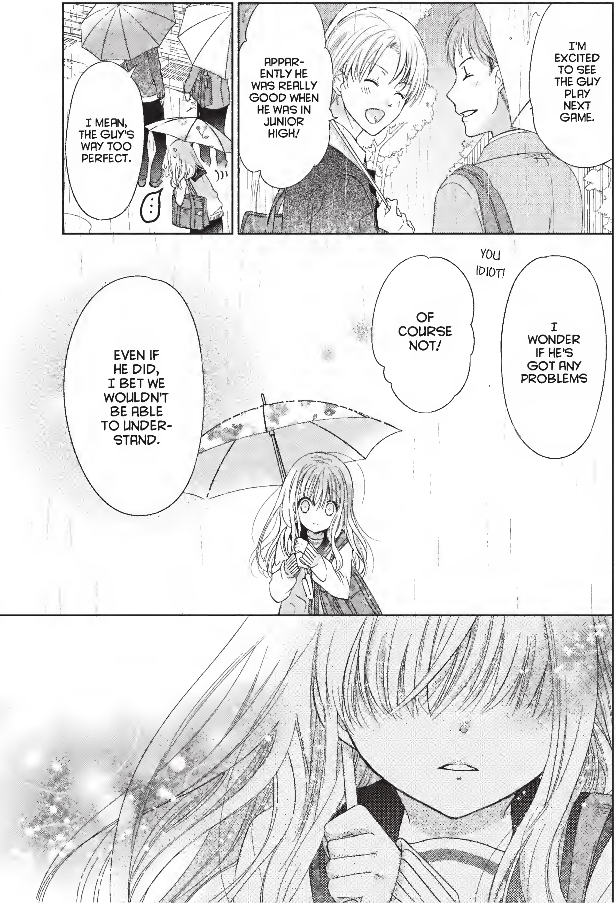

I'M ...
SO SICK OF BASKETBALL.
IT'S SUCH A HASSLE GETTING ALONG WITH MY TEAMMATES ...
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE IN THE GAME.
TOMORROW BEFORE PRACTICE... I'M GONNA TELL THE TEAM SUPERVISOR I'M NOT PLAYING ...

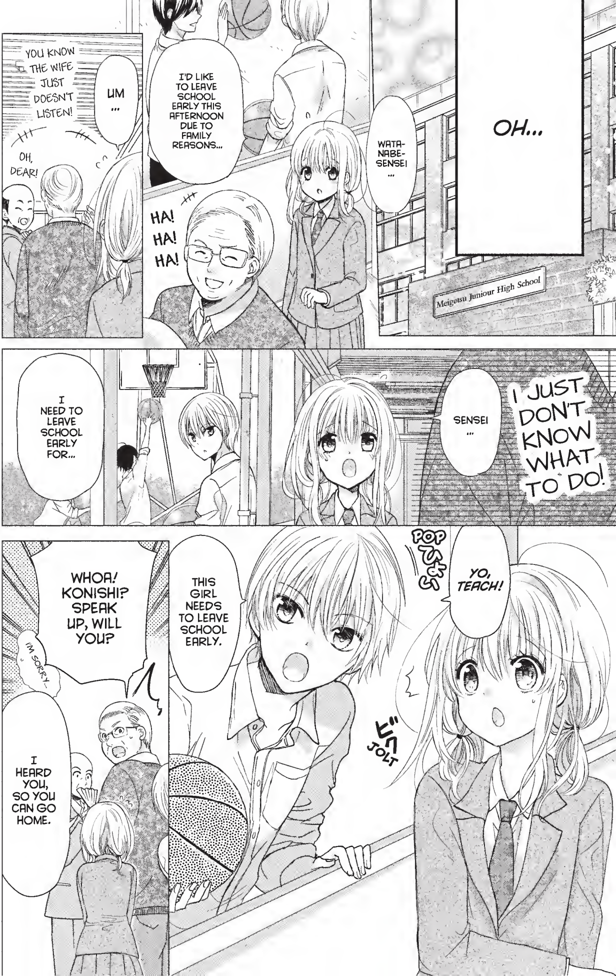

AND JUST QUIT.
SHAPA PA
"WHY?" OH, RIGHT... I CAN'T ASK ANY QUESTIONS.
"YOU'RE JUST TIRED"... I CAN'T GIVE ANY ADVICE, EITHER.
WHY?
AND BESIDES...
I HATED BASKETBALL SINCE I WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH, ANYWAY.
HE WAS SO EAGER BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH.

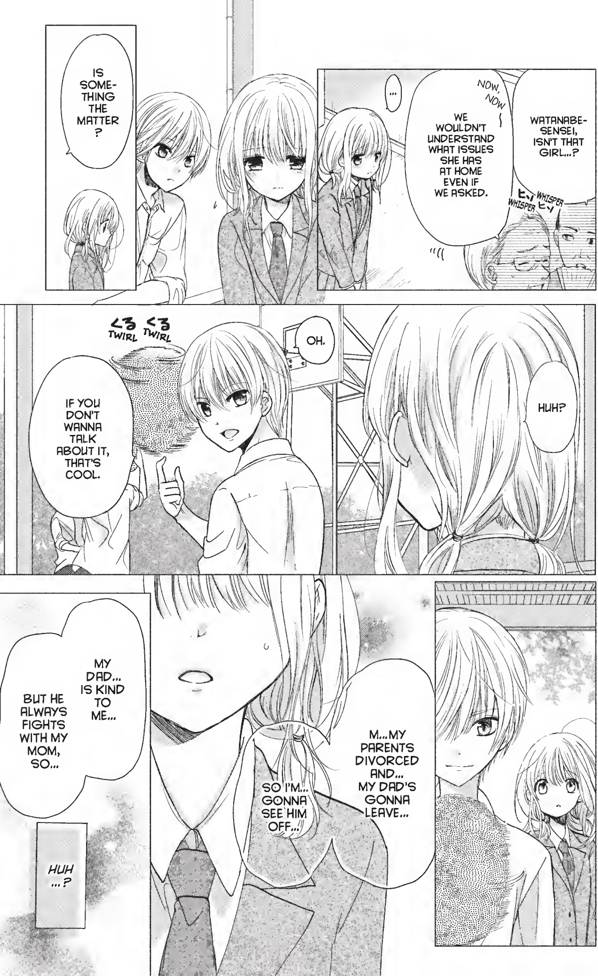

THAT'S A LIE!!
ガダッ
CLATTER
はっ
GASP
THIS PLACE SAYS ITS STAFF WILL ONLY LISTEN ...
I KNEW THIS WAS A SCAM.

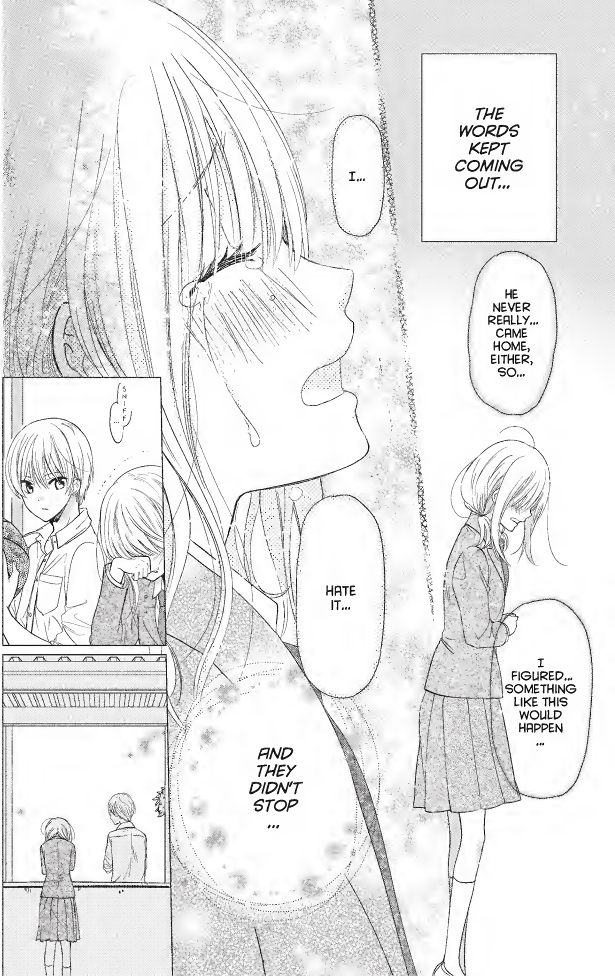

UH...
MAYO.
SIGH.
I SAID WE ONLY LISTEN AT THE LISTENING HOUSE, DIDN'T I?
CUSTOMERS COME HERE BECAUSE THEY WANT SOMEONE TO ACCEPT WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY.
IF THE CUSTOMER FEELS REJECTED, THEY'LL CLOSE THEIR HEART OFF AND STOP TALKING.
BEING A PERSON OF FEW WORDS, I THOUGHT YOU'D BE GOOD FOR THE JOB...

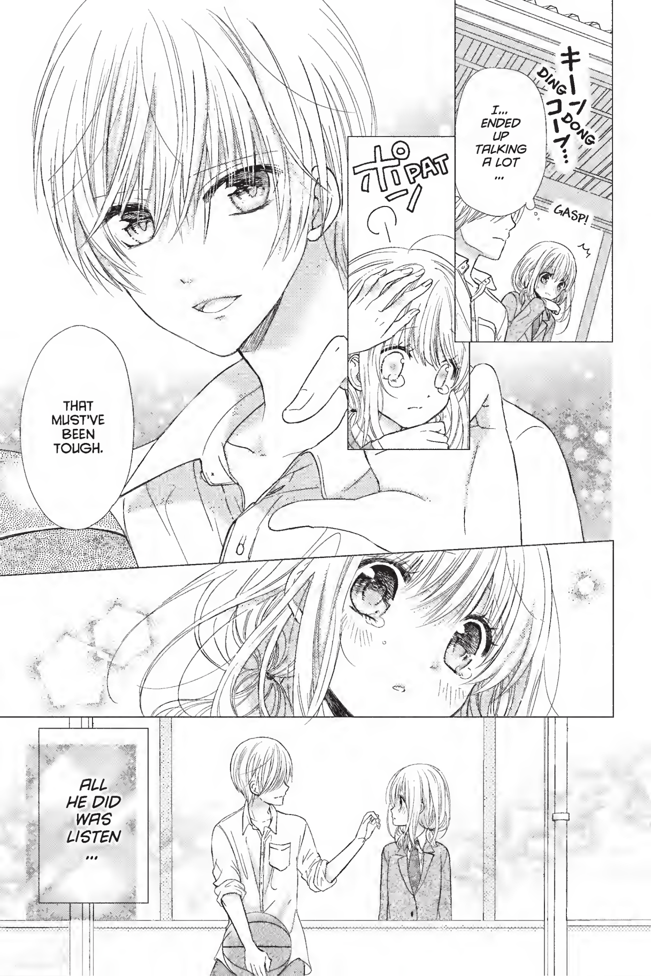

BUT MAYBE I WAS WRONG ...
CLACK
SHAAA
AOBA-KUN ALSO WANTED SOMEONE TO ACCEPT HIM...
BUT I...
AOBA MISSED PRACTICE TODAY.
A BASKET-BALL-TEAM MEMBER?!

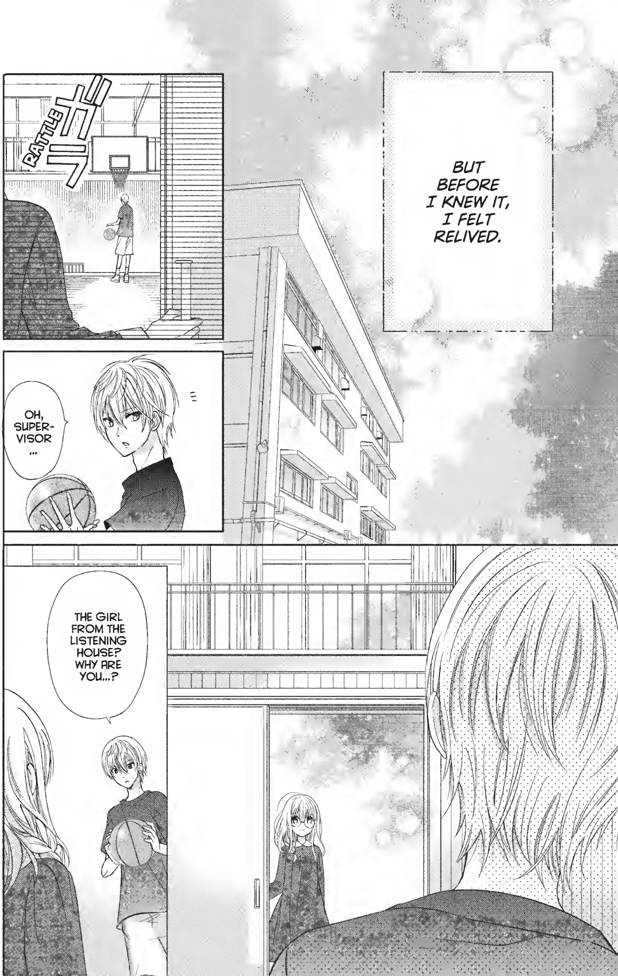

I'M EXCITED TO SEE THE GUY PLAY NEXT GAME.
APPARENTLY HE WAS REALLY GOOD WHEN HE WAS IN JUNIOR HIGH!
I MEAN, THE GUY'S WAY TOO PERFECT.
…
I WONDER IF HE'S GOT ANY PROBLEMS
YOU IDIOT!
OF COURSE NOT!
EVEN IF HE DID, I BET WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND.

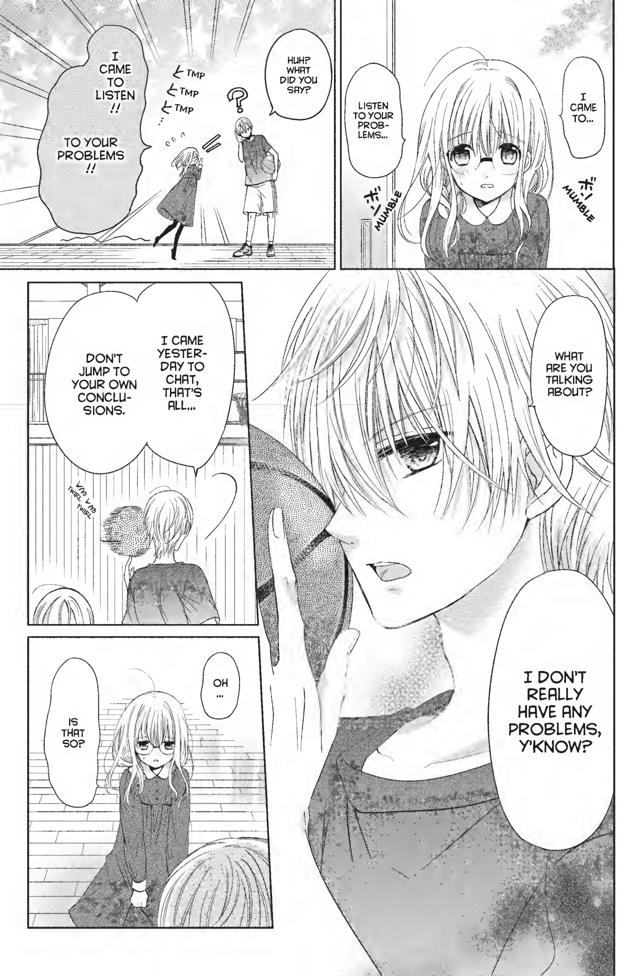

OH...
WATANABE-SENSEI ...
I'D LIKE TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY THIS AFTERNOON DUE TO FAMILY REASONS...
HA! HA! HA!
Meigetsu Juniour High School
UM ...
YOU KNOW THE WIFE JUST DOESN'T LISTEN!
OH, DEAR!
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
SENSEI ...
I NEED TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY FOR...
POP ひょい
YO, TEACH!
ビク JOLT
THIS GIRL NEEDS TO LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY.
WHOA! KONISHI? SPEAK UP, WILL YOU?
I'M SORRY...
I HEARD YOU, SO YOU CAN GO HOME.

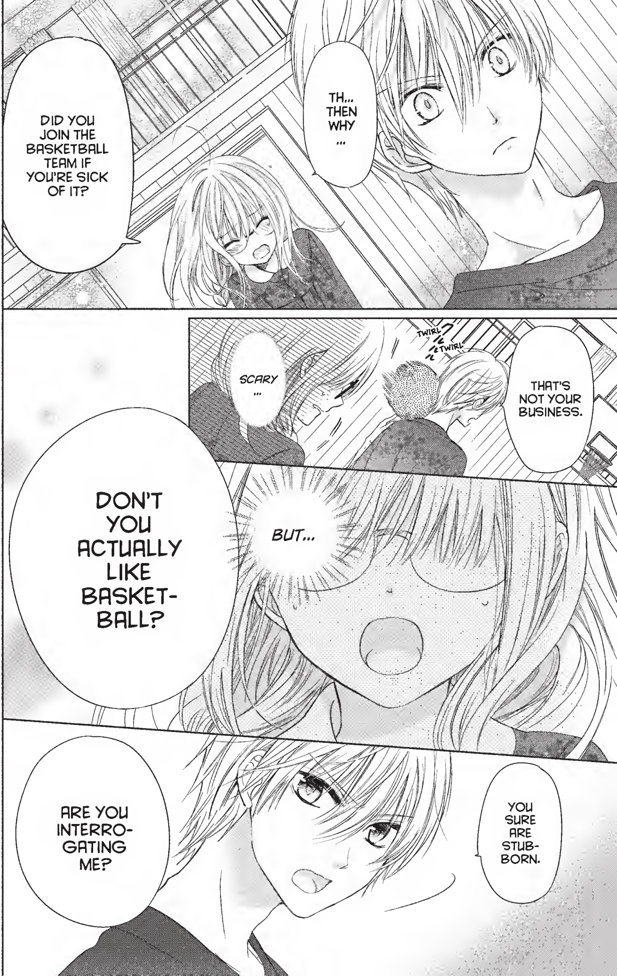

WATANABE-SENSEI, ISN'T THAT GIRL...?
ヒソ ヒソ WHISPER WHISPER
NOW, NOW
WE WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT ISSUES SHE HAS AT HOME EVEN IF WE ASKED.
...
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
HUH?
OH.
くる くる TWIRL TWIRL
IF YOU DON'T WANNA TALK ABOUT IT, THAT'S COOL.
M...MY PARENTS DIVORCED AND... MY DAD'S GONNA LEAVE...
SO I'M... GONNA SEE HIM OFF...
MY DAD... IS KIND TO ME...
BUT HE ALWAYS FIGHTS WITH MY MOM, SO...
HUH...?

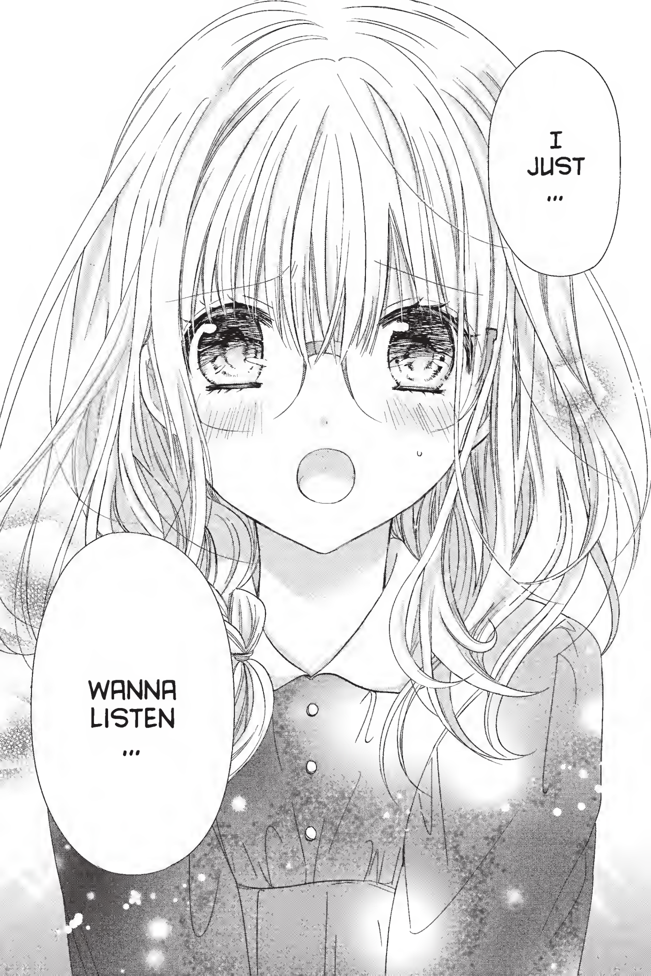

THE WORDS KEPT COMING OUT...
HE NEVER REALLY... CAME HOME, EITHER, SO...
I...
I FIGURED... SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
HATE IT...
SNIFF...
AND THEY DIDN'T STOP...

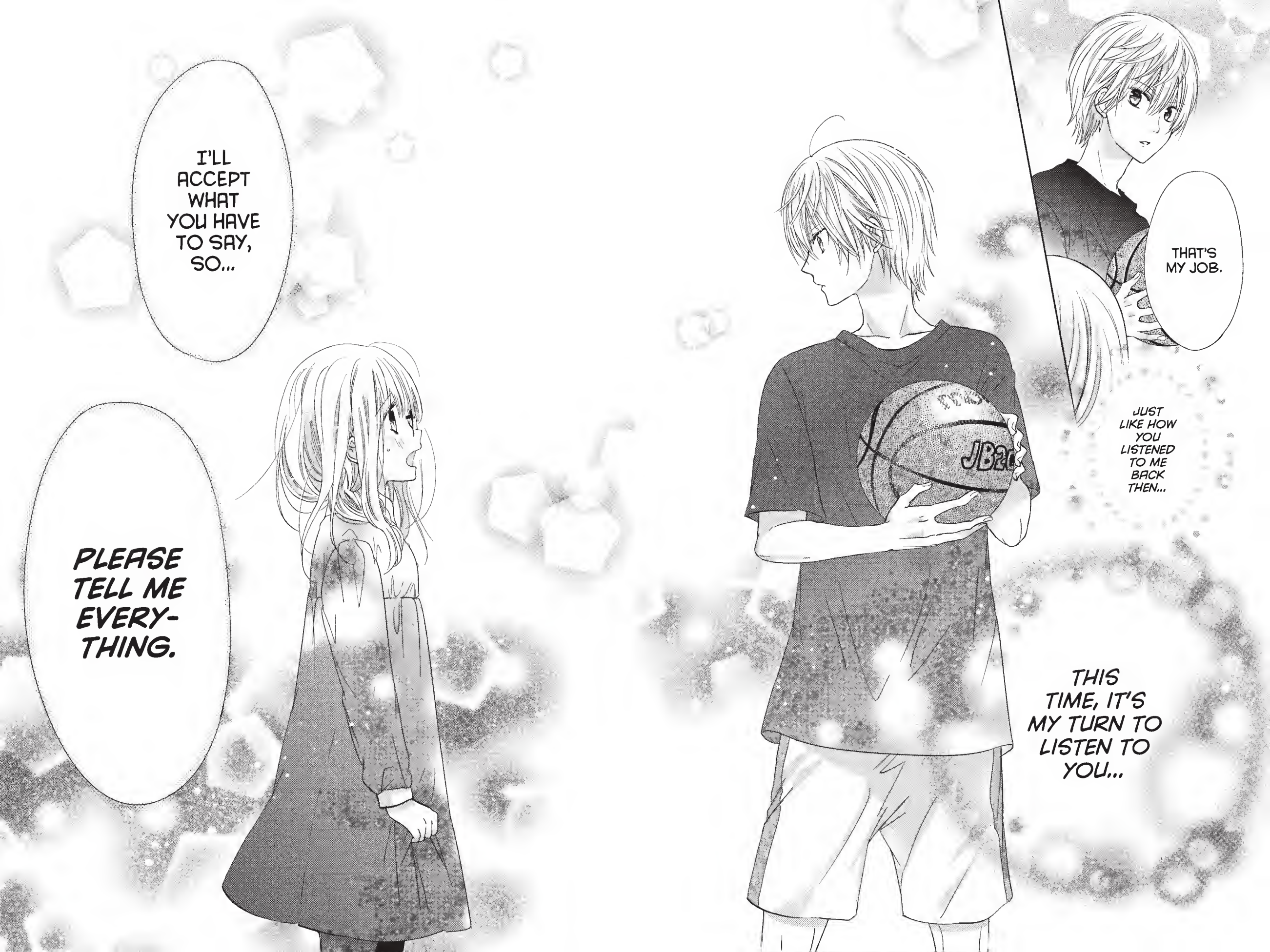

キーンコーン…
DING DONG
I... ENDED UP TALKING A LOT ...
GASP!
ポン
PAT
THAT MUST'VE BEEN TOUGH.
GASP!
ALL HE DID WAS LISTEN ...

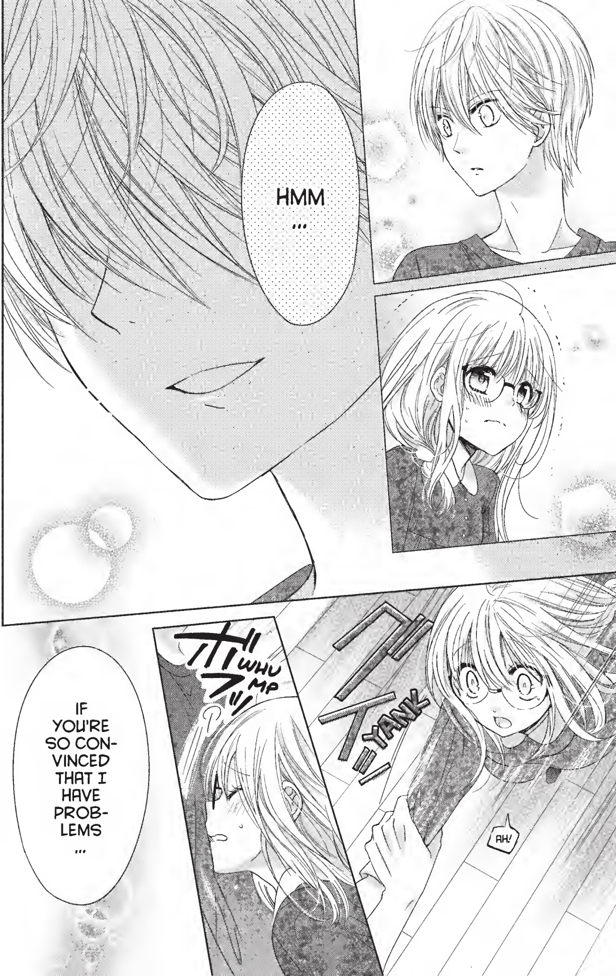

BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, I FELT RELIVED.
ガラ
RATTLE
OH, SUPER-VISOR...
THE GIRL FROM THE LISTENING HOUSE? WHY ARE YOU...?

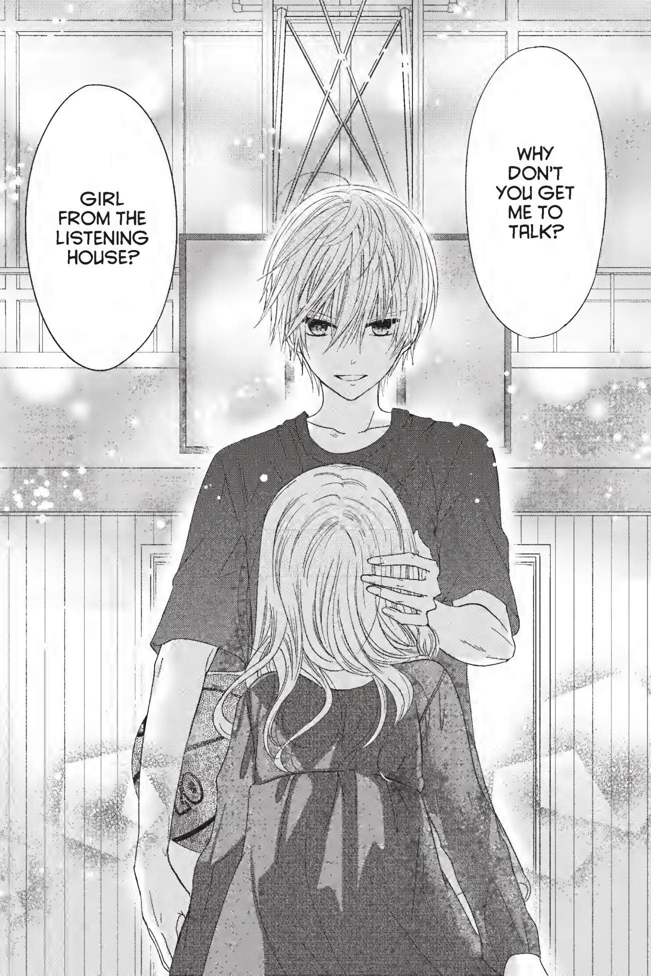

I CAME TO...
LISTEN TO YOUR PROBLEMS...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
HUH? WHAT DID YOU SAY?
TMP
TMP
TMP
I CAME TO LISTEN!!
TO YOUR PROBLEMS!!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY PROBLEMS, Y'KNOW?
I CAME YESTERDAY TO CHAT, THAT'S ALL...
DON'T JUMP TO YOUR OWN CONCLUSIONS.
TWIRL TWIRL
OH...
IS THAT SO?

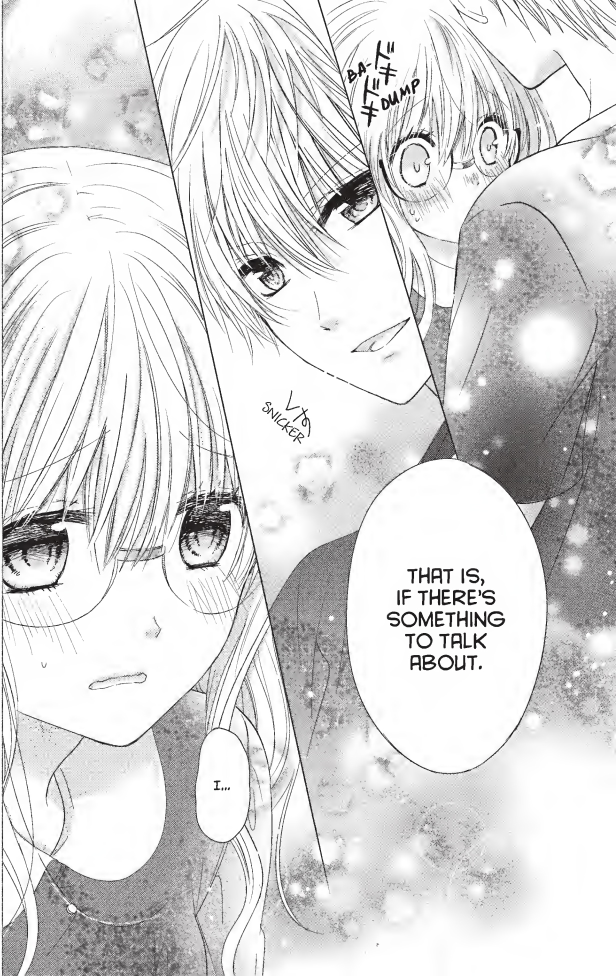

TH... THEN WHY ...
DID YOU JOIN THE BASKETBALL TEAM IF YOU'RE SICK OF IT?
THAT'S NOT YOUR BUSINESS.
TWIRL TWIRL
SCARY ...
BUT...
DON'T YOU ACTUALLY LIKE BASKETBALL?
YOU SURE ARE STUBBORN.
ARE YOU INTERROGATING ME?

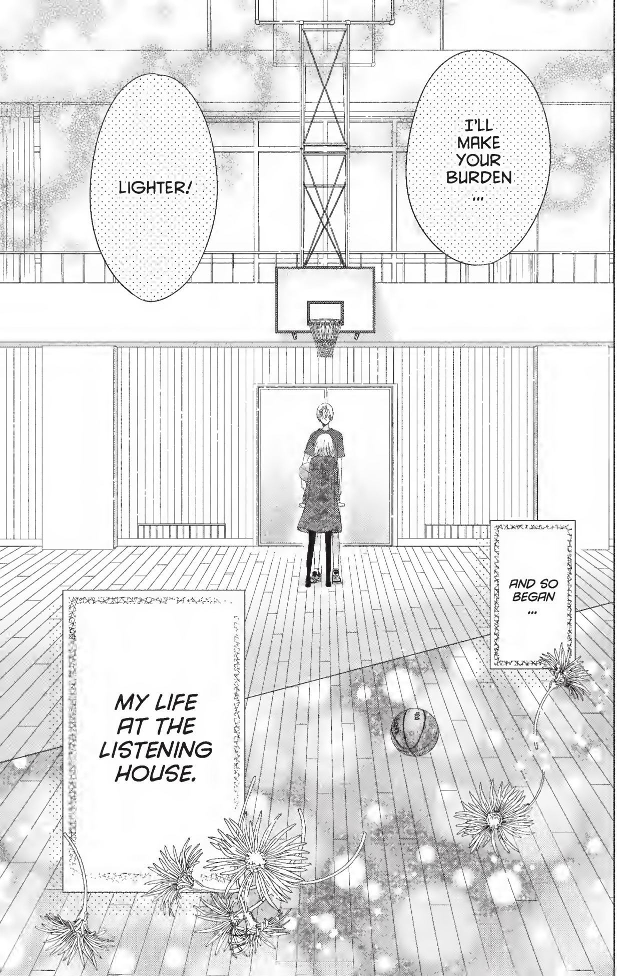

I JUST ...
WANNA LISTEN ...


THAT'S MY JOB.
JUST LIKE HOW YOU LISTENED TO ME BACK THEN...
THIS TIME, IT'S MY TURN TO LISTEN TO YOU...
I'LL ACCEPT WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY, SO...
PLEASE TELL ME EVERYTHING.


HMM ...
YANK
AH!
WHUMP
IF YOU'RE SO CONVINCED THAT I HAVE PROBLEMS ...


WHY DON'T YOU GET ME TO TALK?
GIRL FROM THE LISTENING HOUSE?

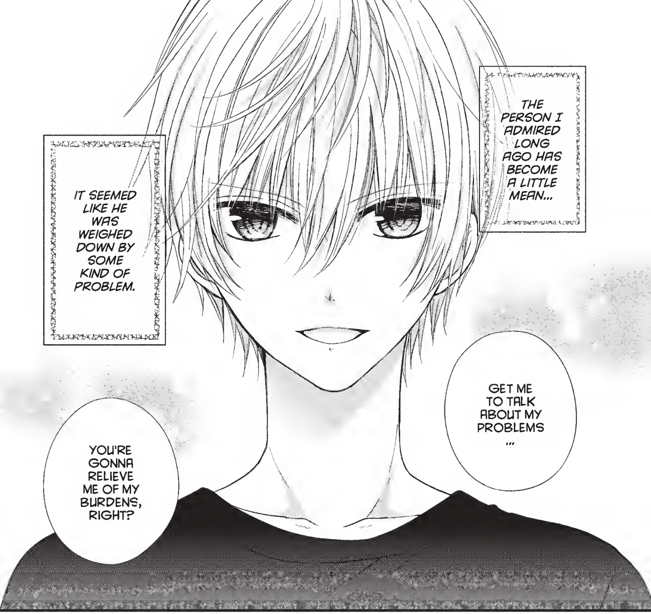

BA-ドキドキ DUMP
ハッ SNICKER
THAT IS, IF THERE'S SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT.
I...


I'LL MAKE YOUR BURDEN ...
LIGHTER!
AND SO BEGAN ...
MY LIFE AT THE LISTENING HOUSE.

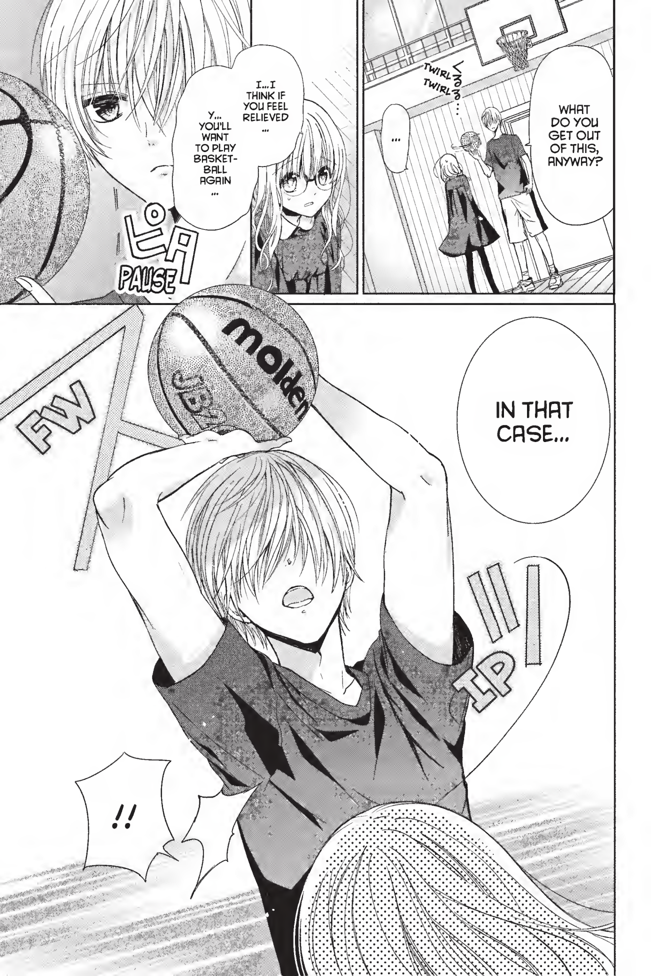
AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

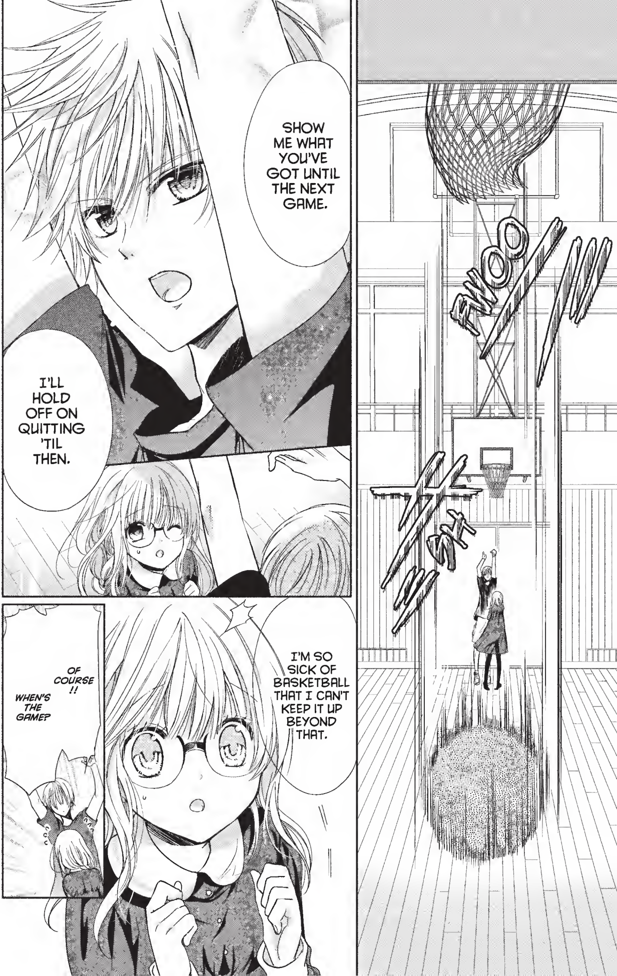
## Time : 2

## WHY DON'T YOU GET ME TO TALK?


THE PERSON I ADMIRED LONG AGO HAS BECOME A LITTLE MEAN...
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS WEIGHED DOWN BY SOME KIND OF PROBLEM.
GET ME TO TALK ABOUT MY PROBLEMS ...
YOU'RE GONNA RELIEVE ME OF MY BURDENS, RIGHT?

# AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

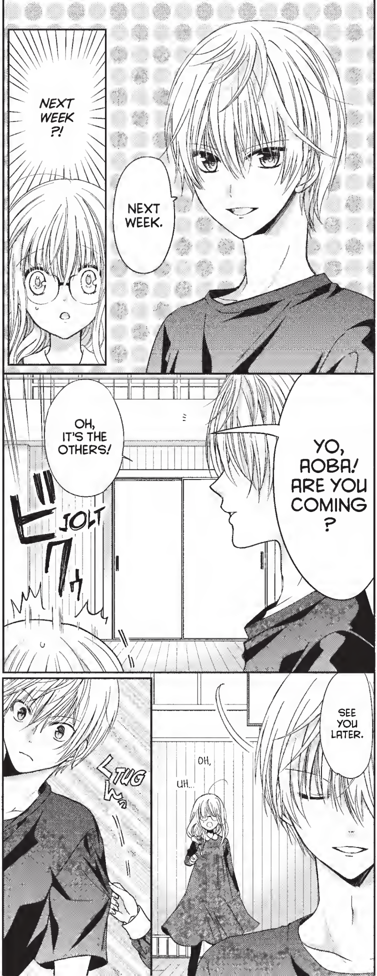

TWIRL くる TWIRL くる…
WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF THIS, ANYWAY?
…
I…I THINK IF YOU FEEL RELIEVED…
Y… YOU'LL WANT TO PLAY BASKETBALL AGAIN…
ピタ PAUSE
IN THAT CASE…
molden
FWIP
!!

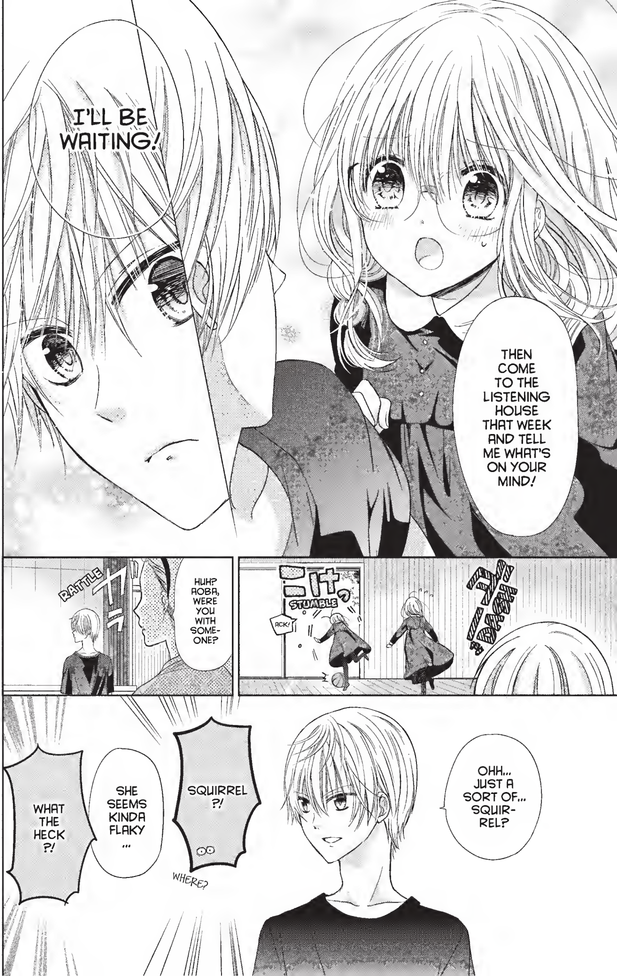

FWOOP
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT UNTIL THE NEXT GAME.
I'LL HOLD OFF ON QUITTING 'TIL THEN.
I'M SO SICK OF BASKETBALL THAT I CAN'T KEEP IT UP BEYOND THAT.
OF COURSE!!
WHEN'S THE GAME?

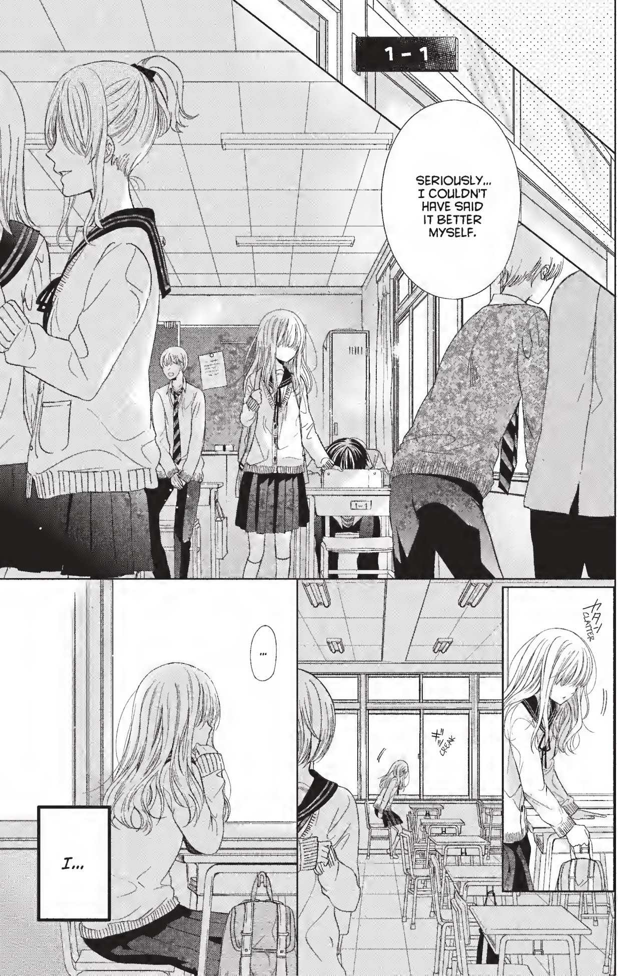
MAYO SAKURADA
BORN MARCH 4TH
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 148CM
FAVORITE FOOD:
APPLE PIE
MAYONNAISE

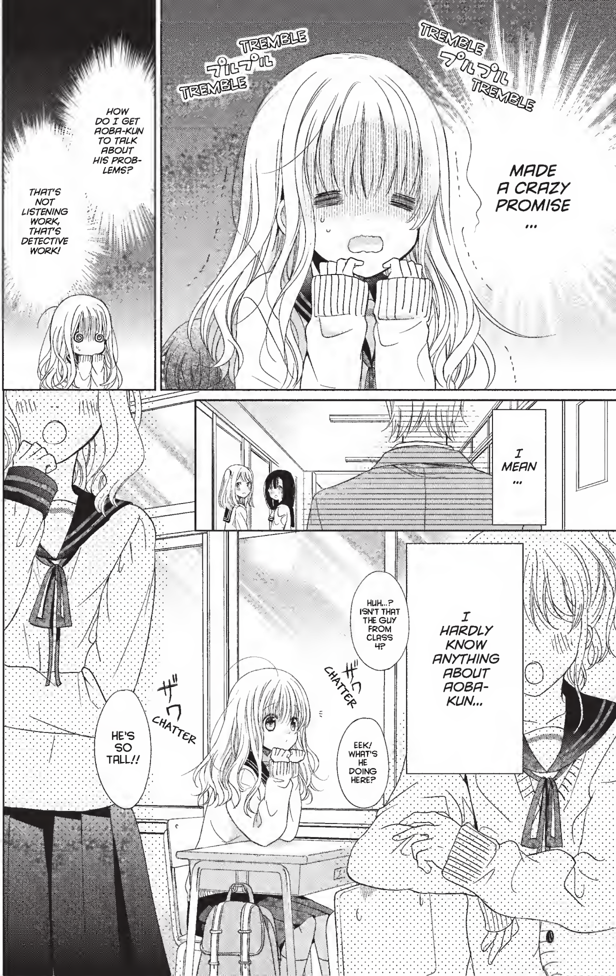
6:30 AM
STRUGGLING WITH
HER UNRULUY HAIR

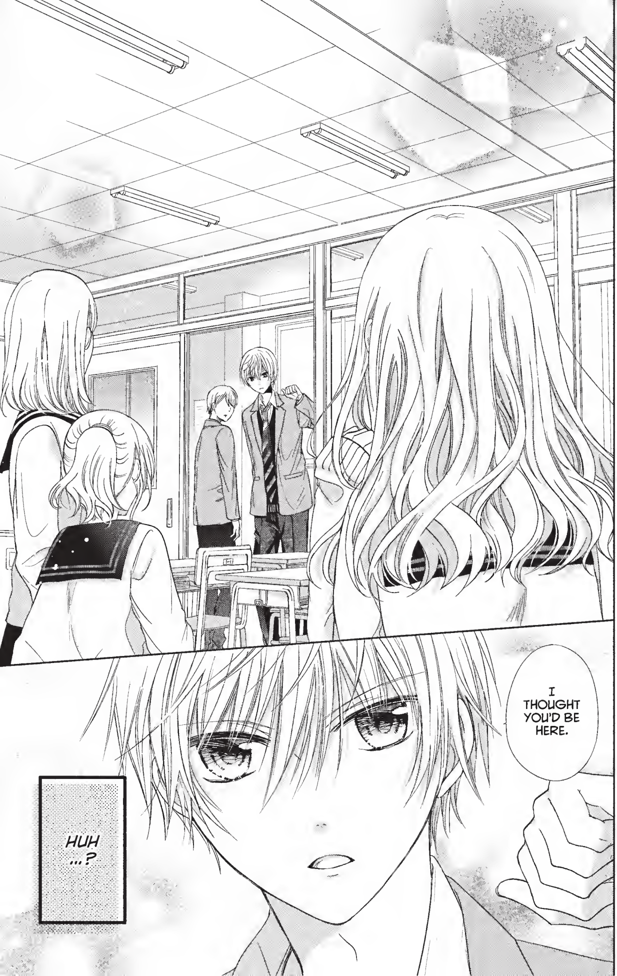
THE WINTER SQUIRREL THAT LIVES BY THE LISTENING HOUSE

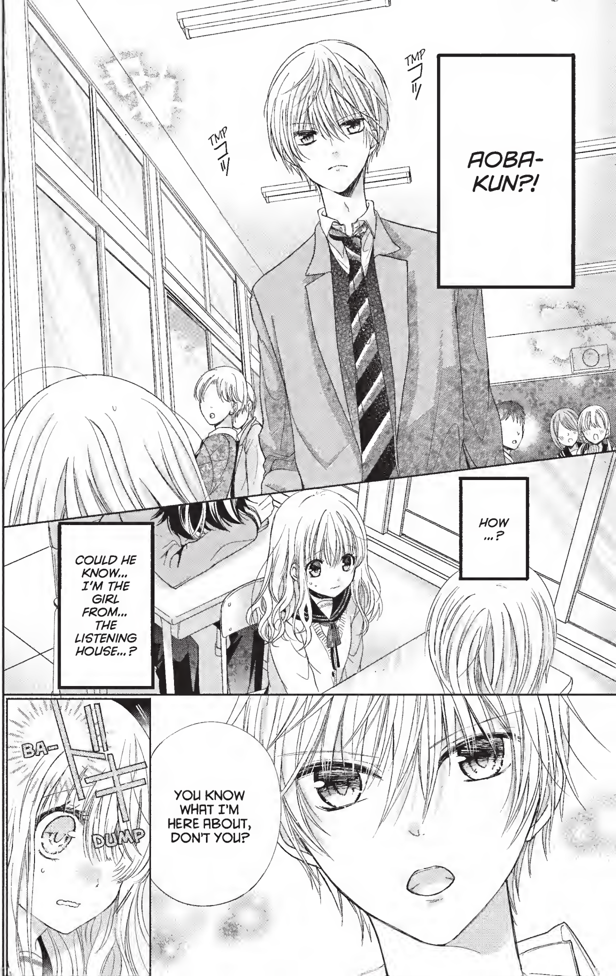

NEXT WEEK.
NEXT WEEK ?!
YO, AOBA! ARE YOU COMING ?
OH, IT'S THE OTHERS!
JOLT
ビクッ
SEE YOU LATER.
OH,
UH...
TUG

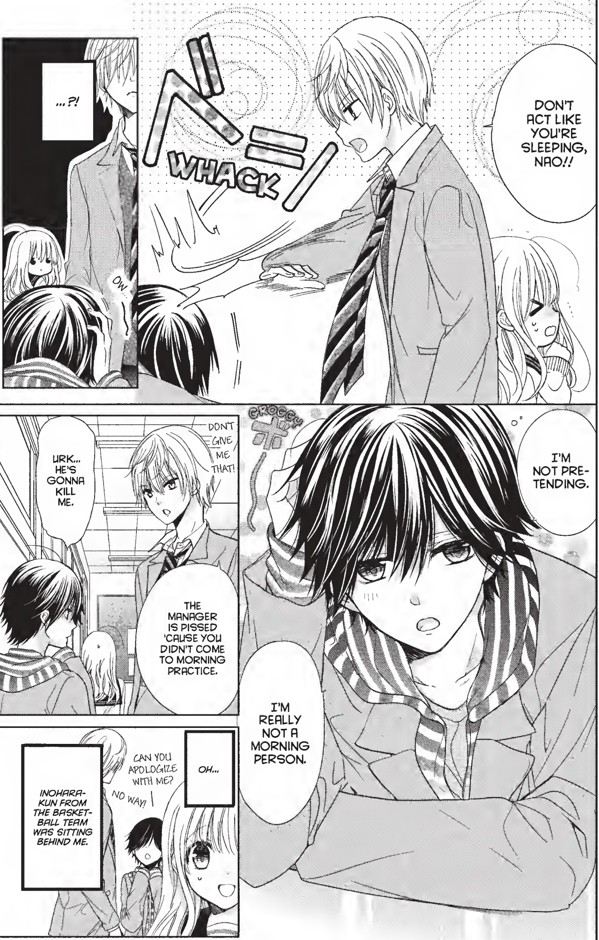

THEN COME TO THE LISTENING HOUSE THAT WEEK AND TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND!
I'LL BE WAITING!
ダーッ DASH
こけっ STUMBLE
ACK!
ガラ RATTLE
HUH? AOBA, WERE YOU WITH SOMEONE?
OHH... JUST A SORT OF... SQUIRREL?
SQUIRREL?!
WHERE?
SHE SEEMS KINDA FLAKY...
WHAT THE HECK?!

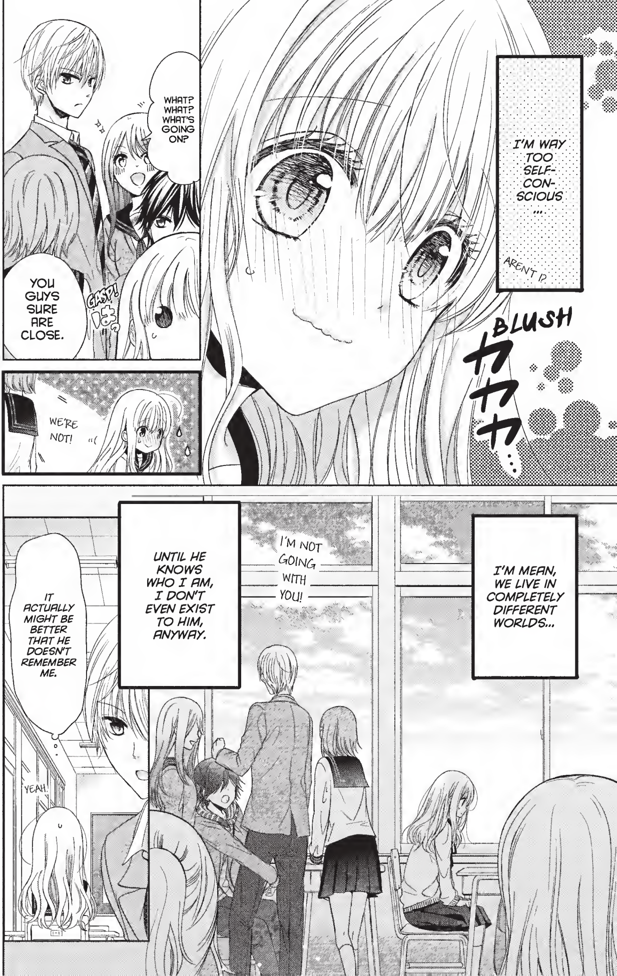

1 - 1
SERIOUSLY... I COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER MYSELF.
カタン CLATTER
ギ CREAK
...
I...

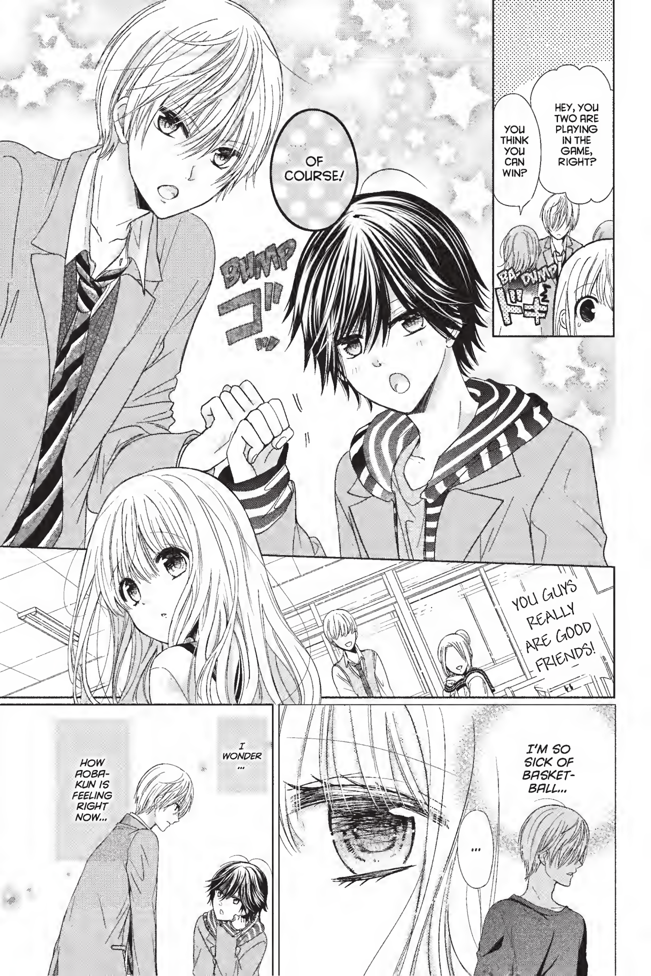

TREMBLE
プルプル
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
プルプル
TREMBLE
MADE A CRAZY PROMISE...
HOW DO I GET AOBA-KUN TO TALK ABOUT HIS PROBLEMS?
THAT'S NOT LISTENING WORK, THAT'S DETECTIVE WORK!
I MEAN...
I HARDLY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT AOBA-KUN...
HUH...? ISN'T THAT THE GUY FROM CLASS 4?
ザワ
CHATTER
EEK! WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
ザワ
CHATTER
HE'S SO TALL!!

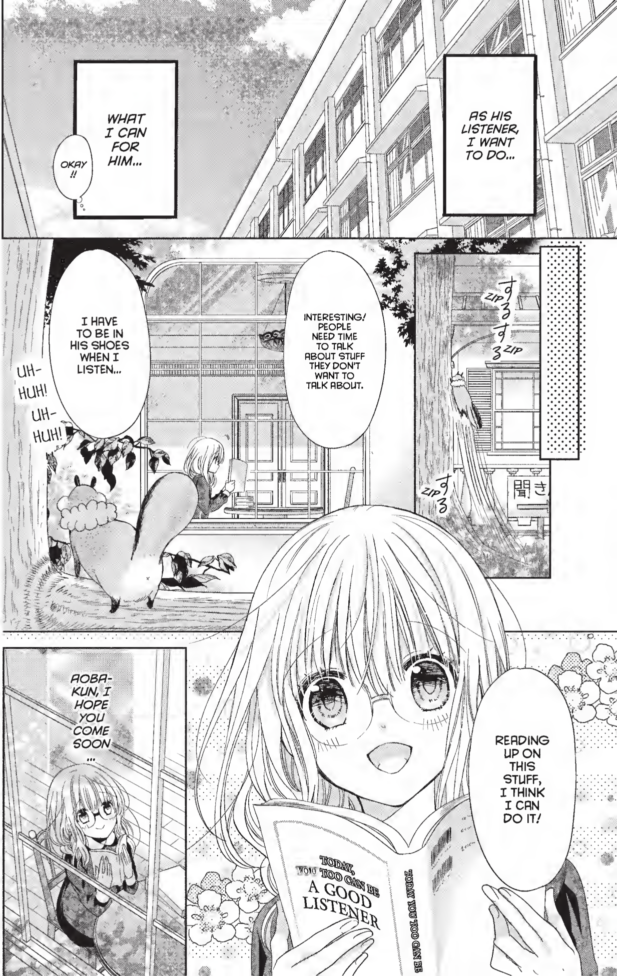

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HERE.
HUH ...?

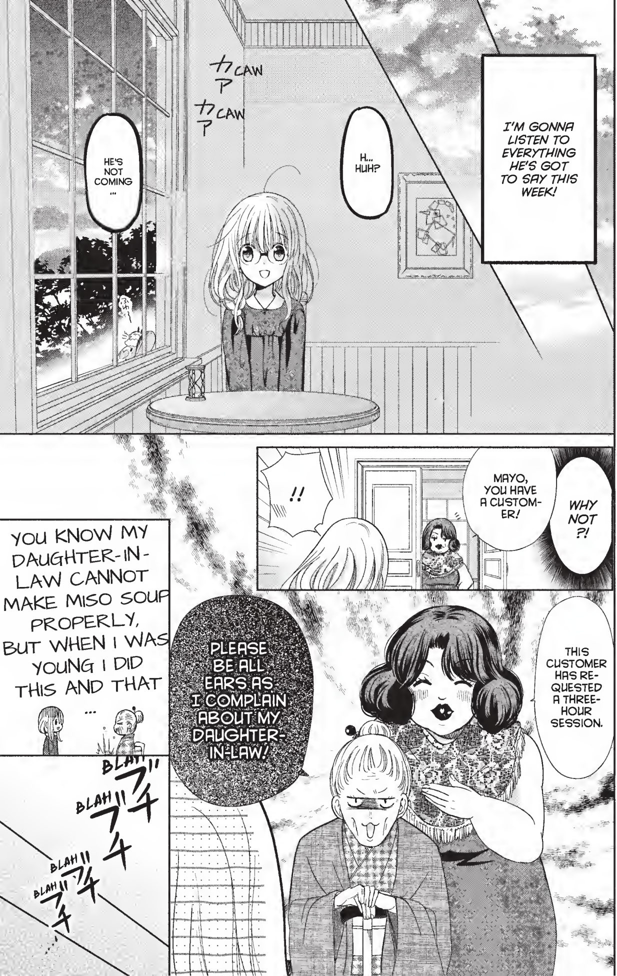

TMP
AOBA-KUN?!
TMP
HOW ...?
COULD HE KNOW... I'M THE GIRL FROM... THE LISTENING HOUSE...?
YOU KNOW WHAT I'M HERE ABOUT, DON'T YOU?
BA-
DUMP

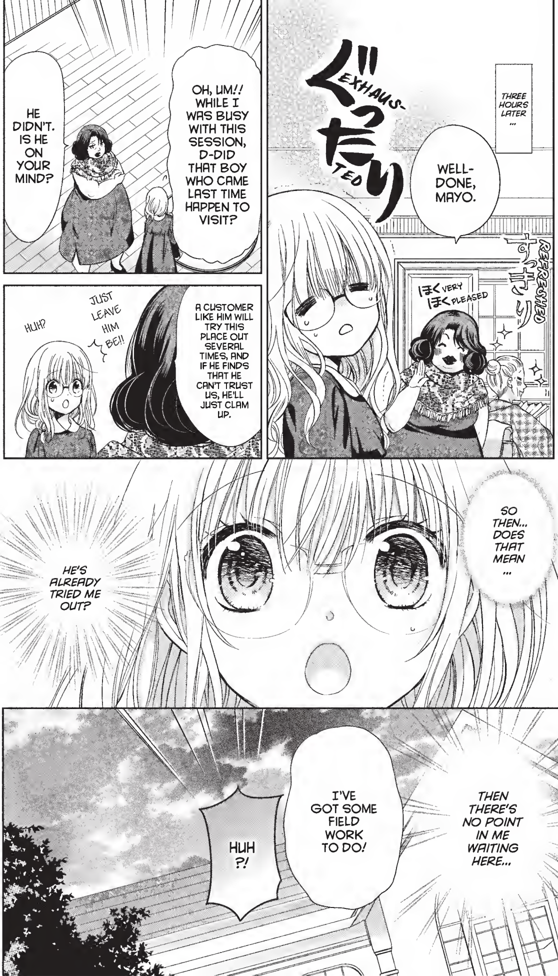

DON'T ACT LIKE YOU'RE SLEEPING, NAO!!
WHACK
...?!
OW...
I'M NOT PRETENDING.
GROGGY
DON'T GIVE ME THAT!
URK... HE'S GONNA KILL ME.
THE MANAGER IS PISSED 'CAUSE YOU DIDN'T COME TO MORNING PRACTICE.
I'M REALLY NOT A MORNING PERSON.
OH...
CAN YOU APOLOGIZE WITH ME?
NO WAY!
INOHARA-KUN FROM THE BASKETBALL TEAM WAS SITTING BEHIND ME.

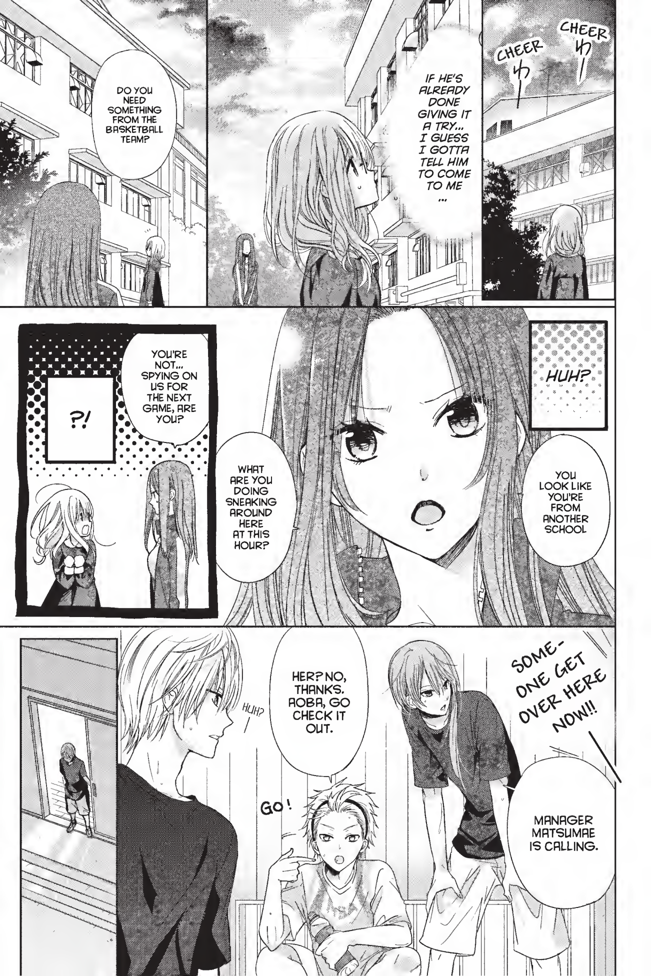

I'M WAY TOO SELF-CONSCIOUS...
AREN'T I?
BLUSH カカカ...
WHAT? WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU GUYS SURE ARE CLOSE.
GASP! はっ
WE'RE NOT!
I'M MEAN, WE LIVE IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WORLDS...
I'M NOT GOING WITH YOU!
UNTIL HE KNOWS WHO I AM, I DON'T EVEN EXIST TO HIM, ANYWAY.
IT ACTUALLY MIGHT BE BETTER THAT HE DOESN'T REMEMBER ME.
YEAH.

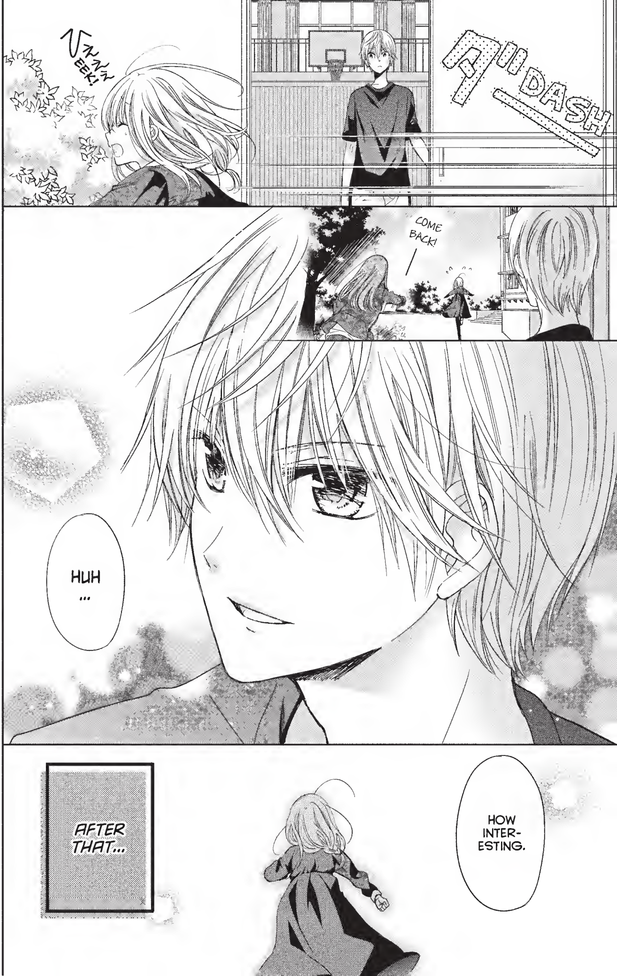

HEY, YOU TWO ARE PLAYING IN THE GAME, RIGHT?
YOU THINK YOU CAN WIN?
BA-DUMP
ドキッ
OF COURSE!
BUMP
ゴッ
YOU GUYS REALLY ARE GOOD FRIENDS!
I'M SO SICK OF BASKET-BALL...
...
I WONDER...
HOW AOBA-KUN IS FEELING RIGHT NOW...

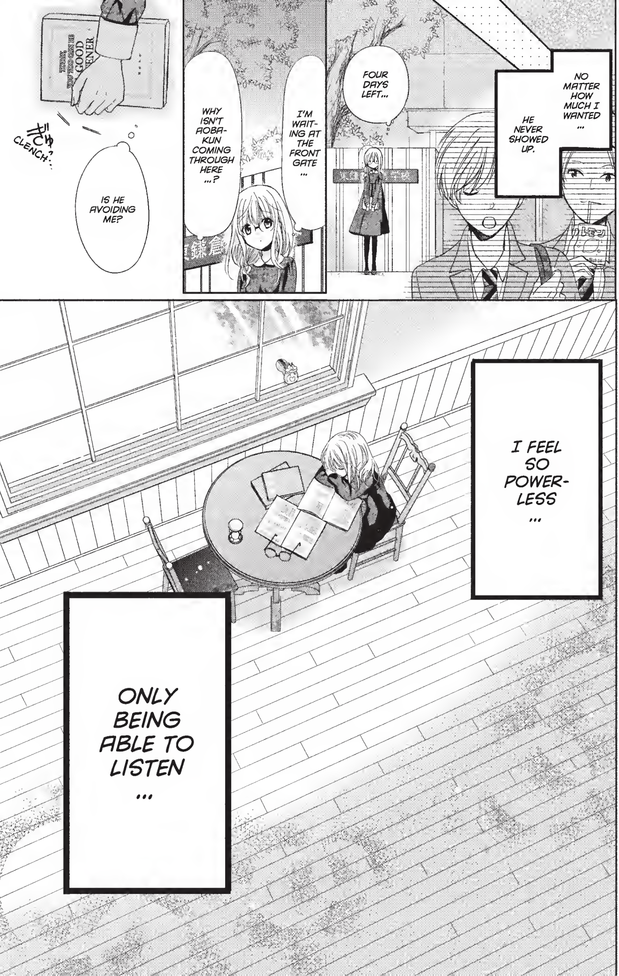

AS HIS LISTENER, I WANT TO DO...
WHAT I CAN FOR HIM...
OKAY!!
すする ZIP
すする ZIP
すする ZIP
聞き
INTERESTING! PEOPLE NEED TIME TO TALK ABOUT STUFF THEY DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT.
I HAVE TO BE IN HIS SHOES WHEN I LISTEN...
UH-HUH! UH-HUH!
READING UP ON THIS STUFF, I THINK I CAN DO IT!
TODAY, YOU TOO CAN BE A GOOD LISTENER
TODAY YOU TOO CAN BE
AOBA-KUN, I HOPE YOU COME SOON...

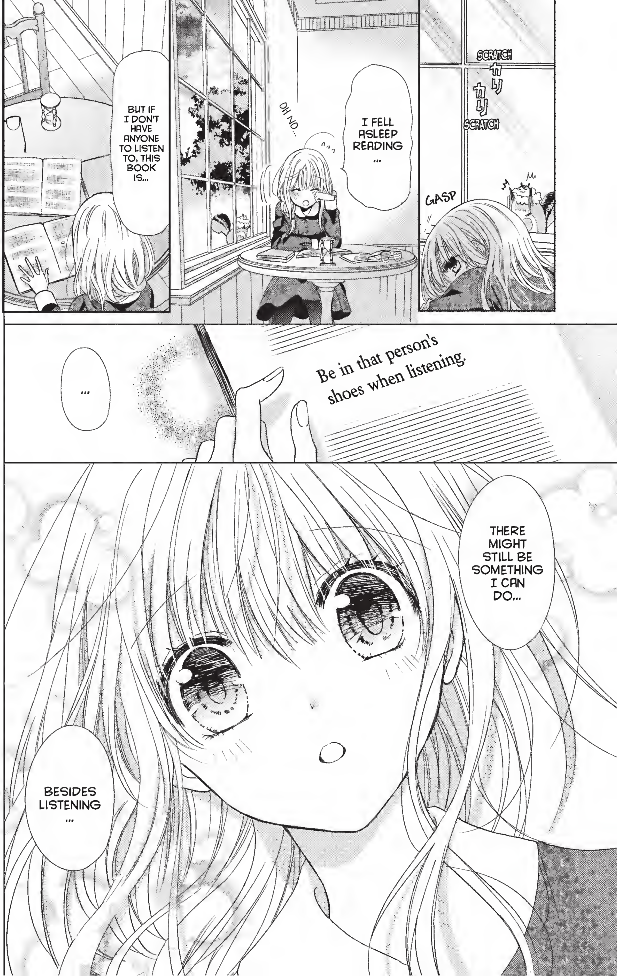

I'M GONNA LISTEN TO EVERYTHING HE'S GOT TO SAY THIS WEEK!
カァ CAW
カァ CAW
H... HUH?
HE'S NOT COMING ...
WHY NOT ?!
MAYO, YOU HAVE A CUSTOMER!
!!
THIS CUSTOMER HAS REQUESTED A THREE-HOUR SESSION.
PLEASE BE ALL EARS AS I COMPLAIN ABOUT MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW!
YOU KNOW MY DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CANNOT MAKE MISO SOUP PROPERLY, BUT WHEN I WAS YOUNG I DID THIS AND THAT ...
ブチ BLAH
ブチ BLAH
ブチ BLAH
ブチ BLAH

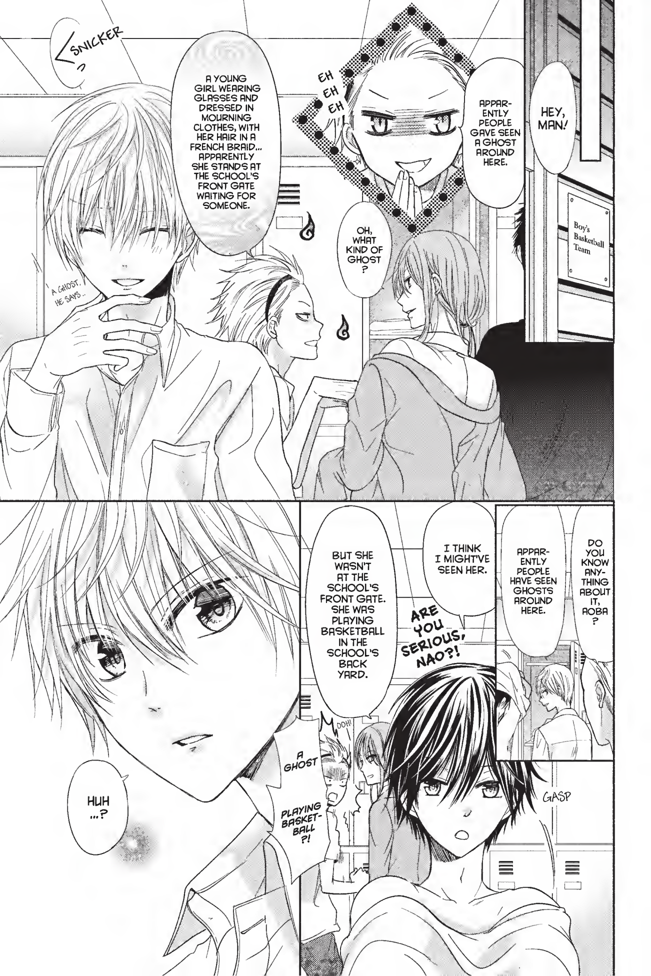

THREE HOURS LATER ...
ぐったり
EXHAUS-TED
WELL-DONE, MAYO.
すっきり
REFRESHED
ほく VERY ほく PLEASED
OH, UM!! WHILE I WAS BUSY WITH THIS SESSION, D-DID THAT BOY WHO CAME LAST TIME HAPPEN TO VISIT?
HE DIDN'T. IS HE ON YOUR MIND?
A CUSTOMER LIKE HIM WILL TRY THIS PLACE OUT SEVERAL TIMES, AND IF HE FINDS THAT HE CAN'T TRUST US, HE'LL JUST CLAM UP.
JUST LEAVE HIM BE!!
HUH?
SO THEN... DOES THAT MEAN ...
HE'S ALREADY TRIED ME OUT?
THEN THERE'S NO POINT IN ME WAITING HERE...
I'VE GOT SOME FIELD WORK TO DO!
HUH ?!

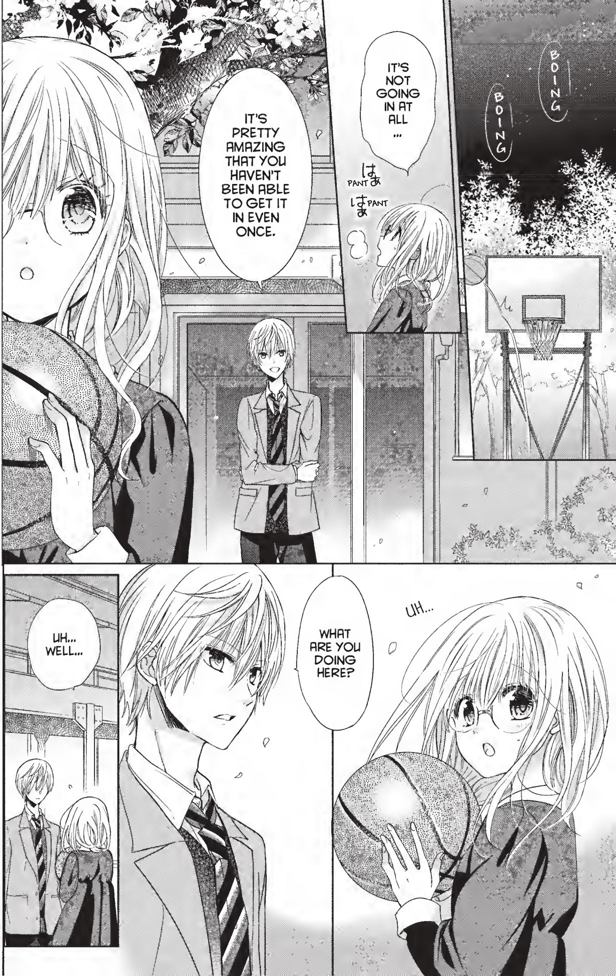

CHEER
CHEER
IF HE'S ALREADY DONE GIVING IT A TRY... I GUESS I GOTTA TELL HIM TO COME TO ME ...
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING FROM THE BASKETBALL TEAM?
HUH?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL
WHAT ARE YOU DOING SNEAKING AROUND HERE AT THIS HOUR?
YOU'RE NOT... SPYING ON US FOR THE NEXT GAME, ARE YOU?
?!
SOME-ONE GET OVER HERE NOW!!
MANAGER MATSUMAE IS CALLING.
HER? NO, THANKS. AOBA, GO CHECK IT OUT.
HUH?
GO!

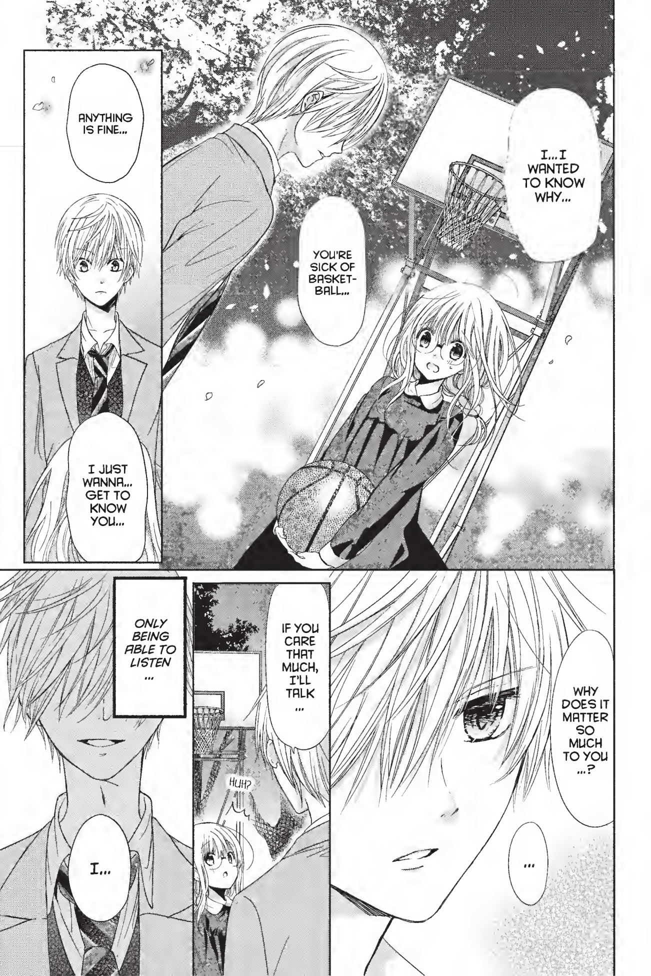

ダッ DASH
ひえええ EEEK!
COME BACK!
HUH...
HOW INTERESTING.
AFTER THAT...

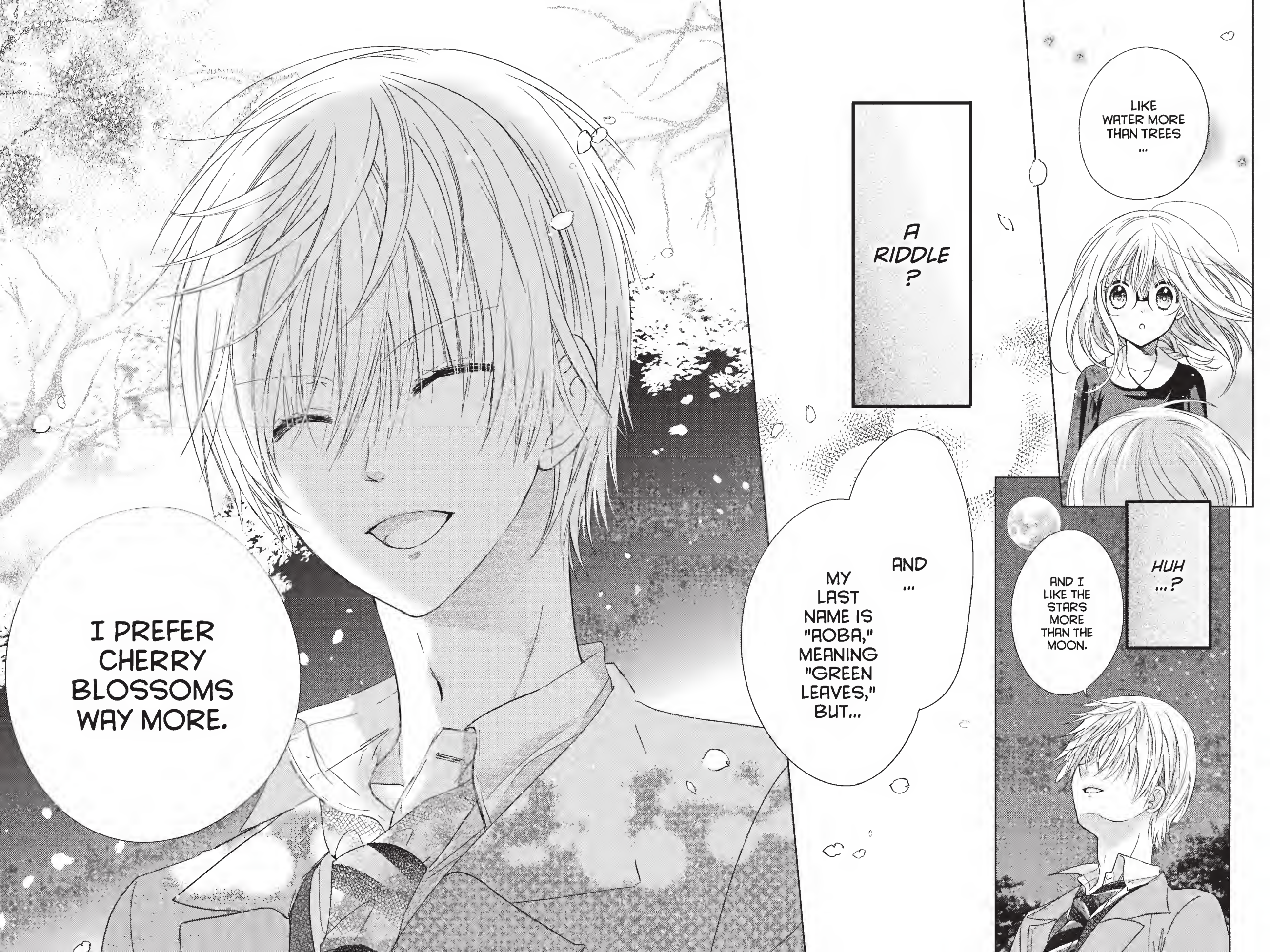

NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANTED ...
HE NEVER SHOWED UP.
FOUR DAYS LEFT...
I'M WAITING AT THE FRONT GATE ...
WHY ISN'T AOBA-KUN COMING THROUGH HERE ...?
TODAY, YOU TOO CAN BE GOOD
ENER
ぎゅ CLENCH
IS HE AVOIDING ME?
I FEEL SO POWERLESS ...
ONLY BEING ABLE TO LISTEN ...

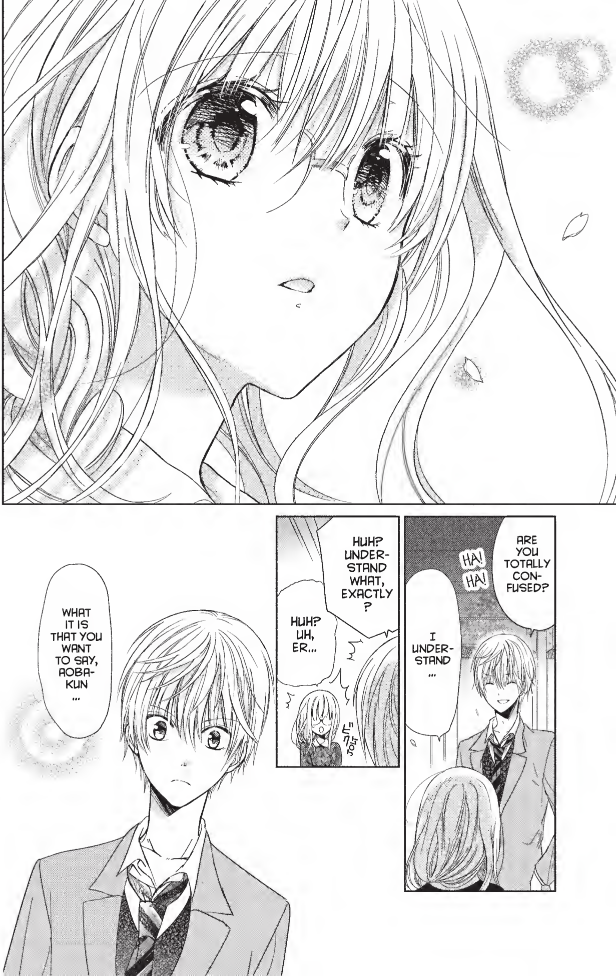

SCRATCH
カリ
カリ
SCRATCH
GASP
OH NO...
I FELL ASLEEP READING ...
BUT IF I DON'T HAVE ANYONE TO LISTEN TO, THIS BOOK IS...
...
Be in that person's shoes when listening.
THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOMETHING I CAN DO...
BESIDES LISTENING ...

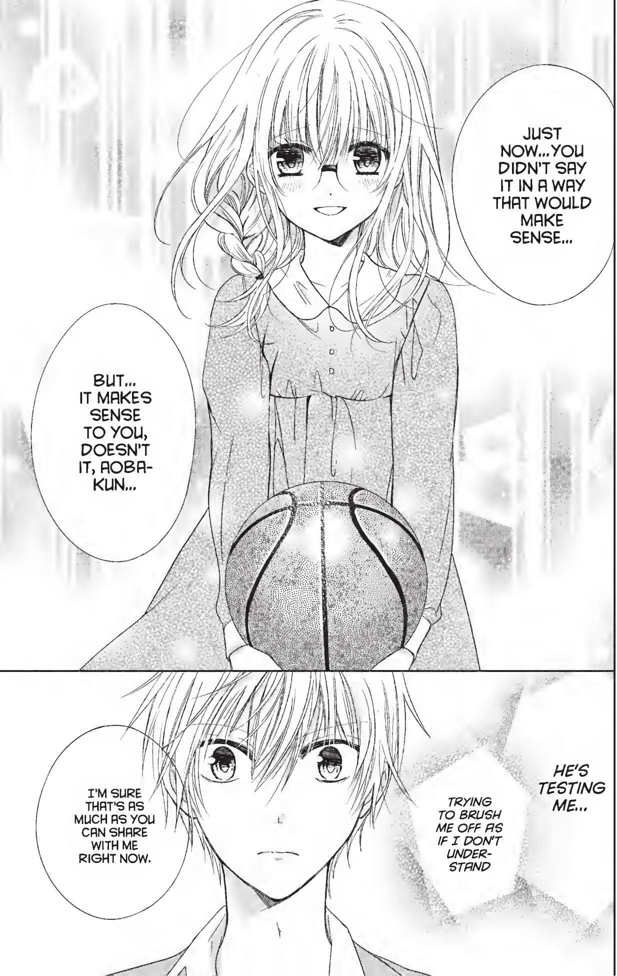

HEY, MAN!
APPARENTLY PEOPLE GAVE SEEN A GHOST AROUND HERE.
EH EH EH
Boy's Basketball Team
OH, WHAT KIND OF GHOST?
A YOUNG GIRL WEARING GLASSES AND DRESSED IN MOURNING CLOTHES, WITH HER HAIR IN A FRENCH BRAID... APPARENTLY SHE STANDS AT THE SCHOOL'S FRONT GATE WAITING FOR SOMEONE.
SNICKER
A GHOST, HE SAYS..
DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT, AOBA?
APPARENTLY PEOPLE HAVE SEEN GHOSTS AROUND HERE.
I THINK I MIGHT'VE SEEN HER.
ARE YOU SERIOUS, NAO?!
BUT SHE WASN'T AT THE SCHOOL'S FRONT GATE. SHE WAS PLAYING BASKETBALL IN THE SCHOOL'S BACK YARD.
OOH!
A GHOST PLAYING BASKETBALL?!
GASP
HUH ...?

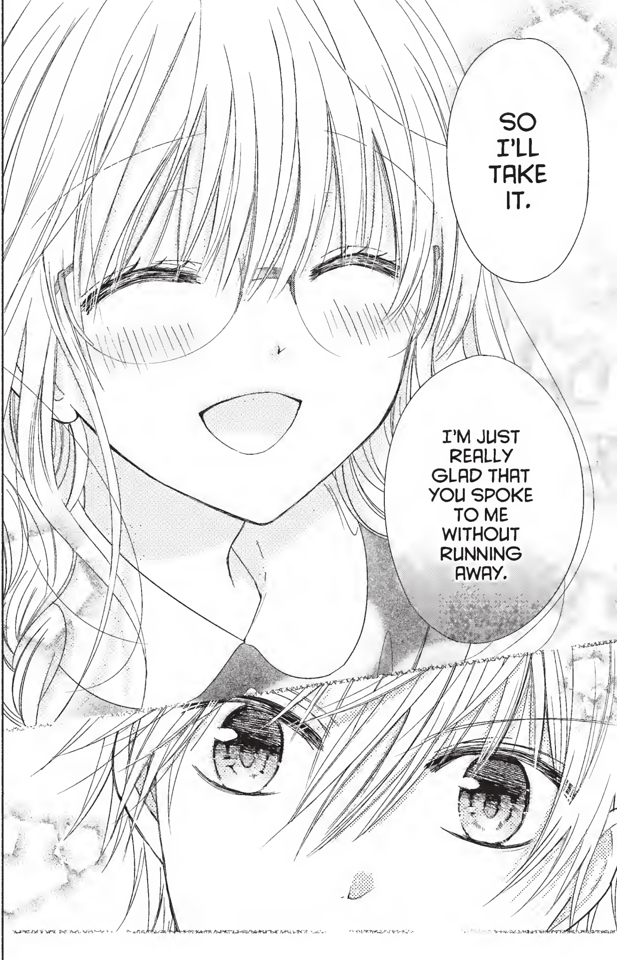

BOING
BOING
IT'S NOT GOING IN AT ALL ...
はあ PANT
はあ PANT
IT'S PRETTY AMAZING THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET IT IN EVEN ONCE.
UH...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
UH... WELL...

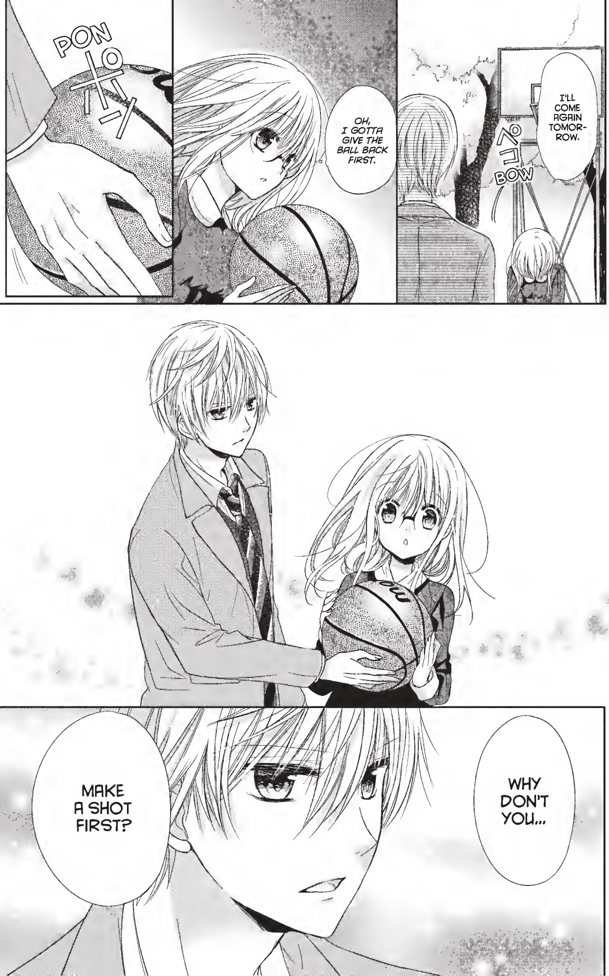

I... I WANTED TO KNOW WHY...
YOU'RE SICK OF BASKETBALL...
ANYTHING IS FINE...
I JUST WANNA... GET TO KNOW YOU...
WHY DOES IT MATTER SO MUCH TO YOU ...?
...
IF YOU CARE THAT MUCH, I'LL TALK ...
HUH?
ONLY BEING ABLE TO LISTEN ...
I...

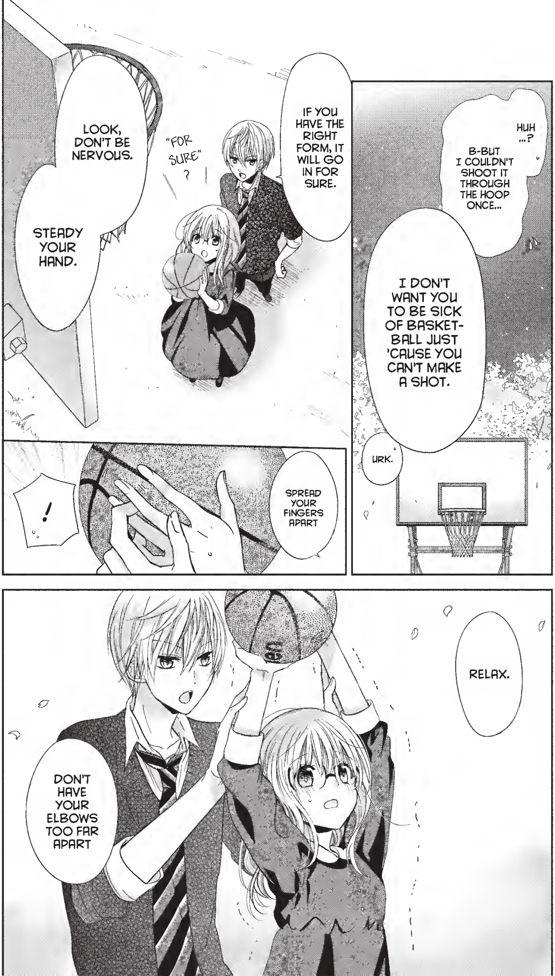

LIKE WATER MORE THAN TREES ...
HUH ...?
AND I LIKE THE STARS MORE THAN THE MOON.
A RIDDLE ?
AND ... MY LAST NAME IS "AOBA," MEANING "GREEN LEAVES," BUT...
I PREFER CHERRY BLOSSOMS WAY MORE.

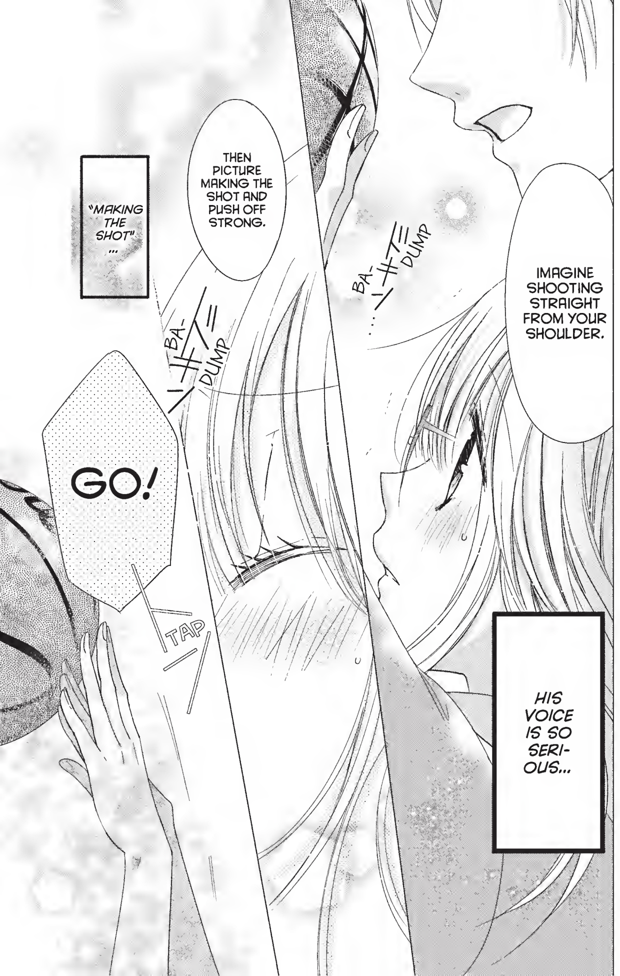

ARE YOU TOTALLY CONFUSED?
HA! HA!
I UNDERSTAND...
HUH? UNDERSTAND WHAT, EXACTLY?
HUH? UH, ER...
WHAT IT IS THAT YOU WANT TO SAY, AOBA-KUN...

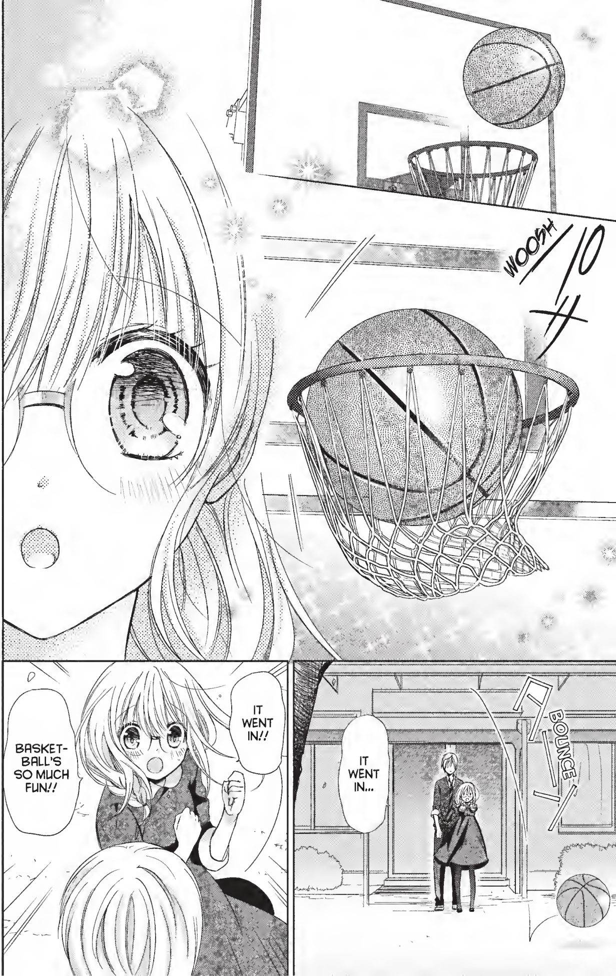

JUST NOW...YOU DIDN'T SAY IT IN A WAY THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE...
BUT... IT MAKES SENSE TO YOU, DOESN'T IT, AOBA-KUN...
HE'S TESTING ME...
TRYING TO BRUSH ME OFF AS IF I DON'T UNDERSTAND
I'M SURE THAT'S AS MUCH AS YOU CAN SHARE WITH ME RIGHT NOW.

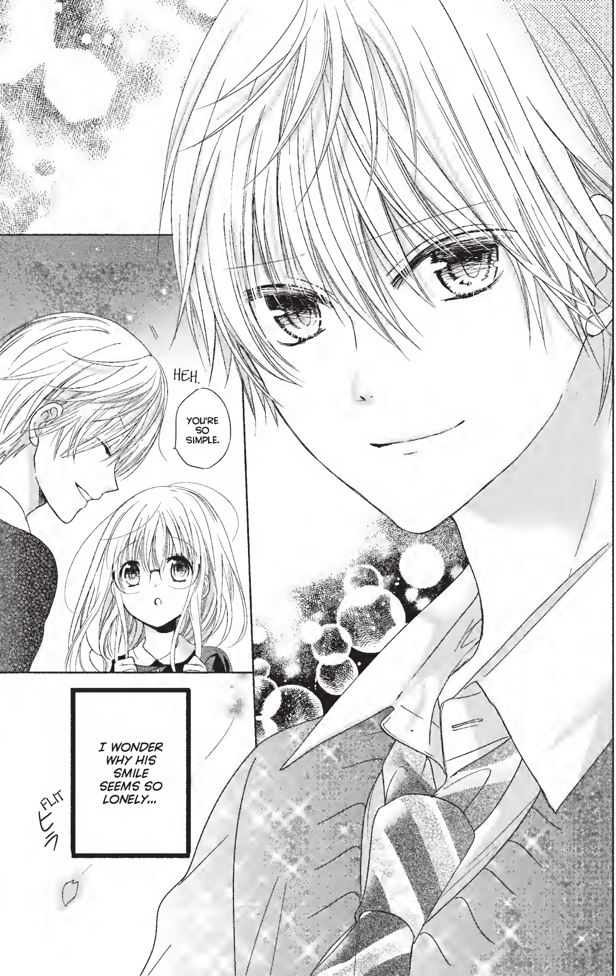

SO I'LL TAKE IT.
I'M JUST REALLY GLAD THAT YOU SPOKE TO ME WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY.

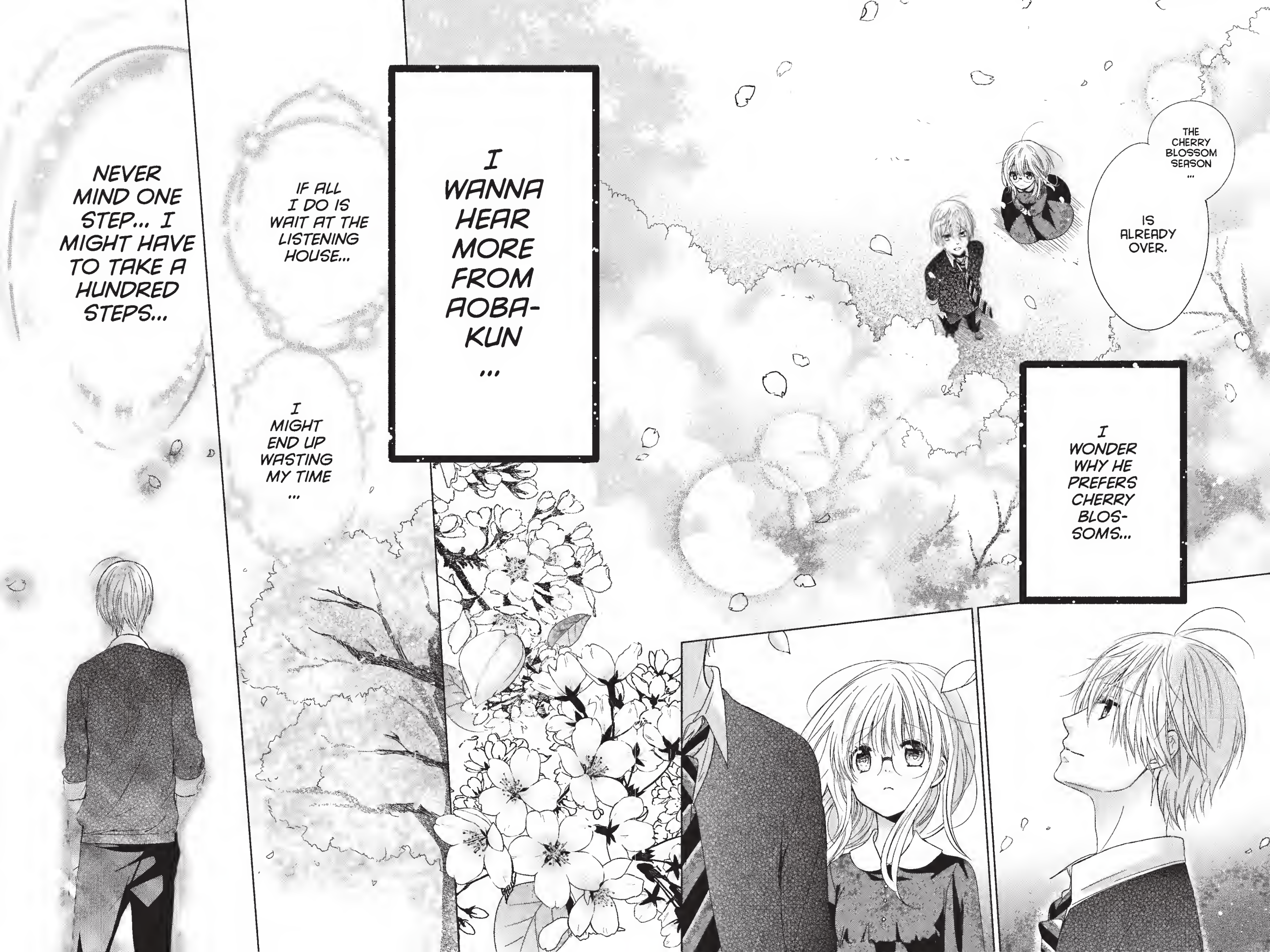

I'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW.
ペコ BOW
OH, I GOTTA GIVE THE BALL BACK FIRST.
PON ポーン
WHY DON'T YOU...
MAKE A SHOT FIRST?

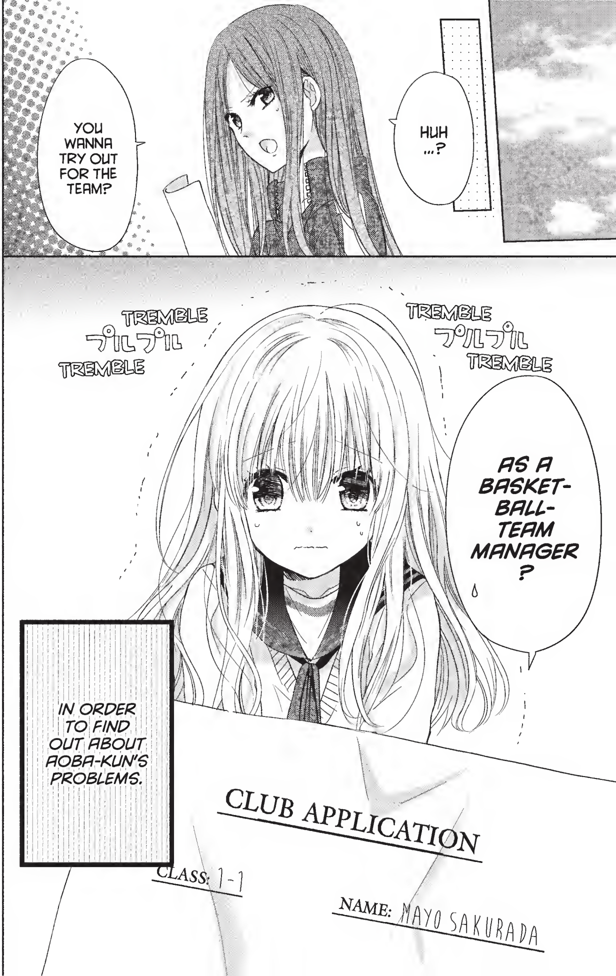

HUH ...?
B-BUT I COULDN'T SHOOT IT THROUGH THE HOOP ONCE...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE SICK OF BASKETBALL JUST 'CAUSE YOU CAN'T MAKE A SHOT.
URK.
IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT FORM, IT WILL GO IN FOR SURE.
"FOR SURE" ?
LOOK, DON'T BE NERVOUS.
STEADY YOUR HAND.
SPREAD YOUR FINGERS APART
!
RELAX.
DON'T HAVE YOUR ELBOWS TOO FAR APART

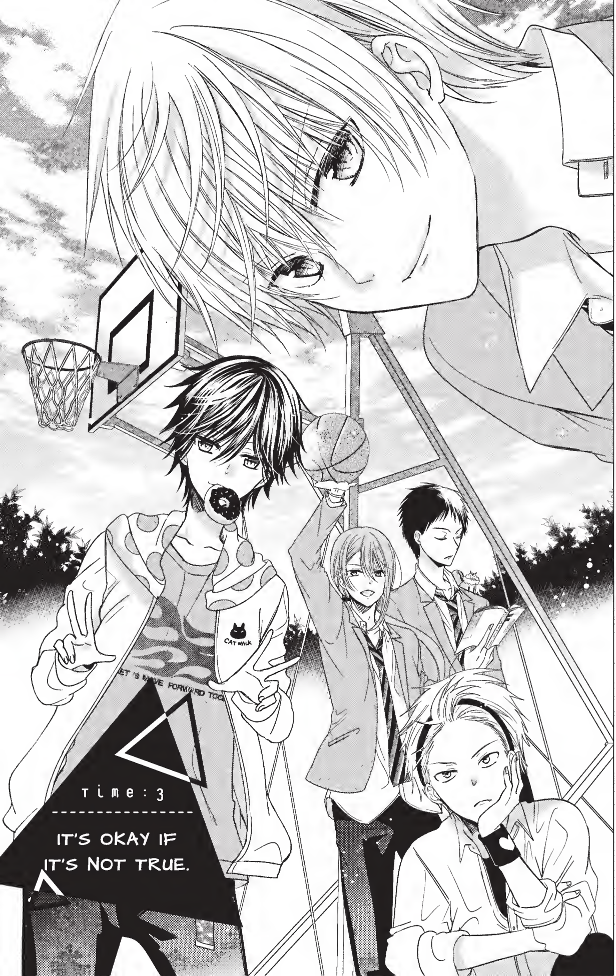

IMAGINE SHOOTING STRAIGHT FROM YOUR SHOULDER.
BA-DUMP
HIS VOICE IS SO SERI-OUS...
THEN PICTURE MAKING THE SHOT AND PUSH OFF STRONG.
BA-DUMP
TAP
"MAKING THE SHOT"...
GO!


WOOSH
IT WENT IN...
BOUNCE
IT WENT IN!!
BASKETBALL'S SO MUCH FUN!!


HEH.
YOU'RE SO SIMPLE.
I WONDER WHY HIS SMILE SEEMS SO LONELY...
FLIT

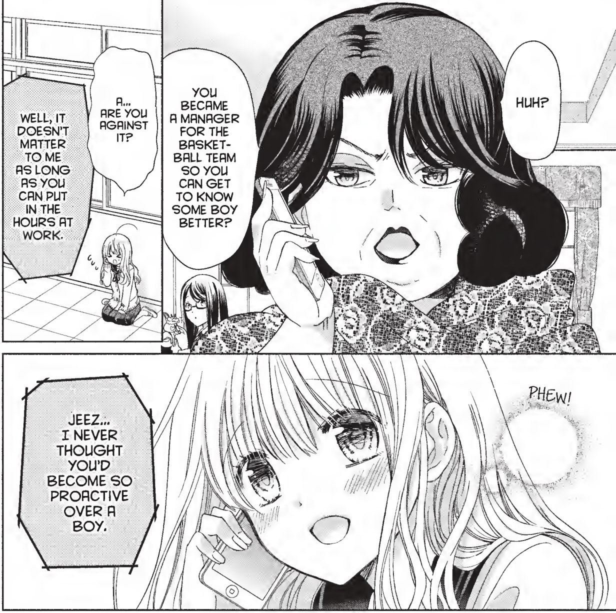

THE CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON ...
IS ALREADY OVER.
I WONDER WHY HE PREFERS CHERRY BLOSSOMS...
I WANNA HEAR MORE FROM AOBA-KUN ...
IF ALL I DO IS WAIT AT THE LISTENING HOUSE...
I MIGHT END UP WASTING MY TIME ...
NEVER MIND ONE STEP... I MIGHT HAVE TO TAKE A HUNDRED STEPS...


HUH ...?
YOU WANNA TRY OUT FOR THE TEAM?
TREMBLE プルプル TREMBLE
TREMBLE プルプル TREMBLE
AS A BASKET-BALL-TEAM MANAGER?
IN ORDER TO FIND OUT ABOUT AOBA-KUN'S PROBLEMS.
CLUB APPLICATION
CLASS: 1-1
NAME: MAYO SAKURADA

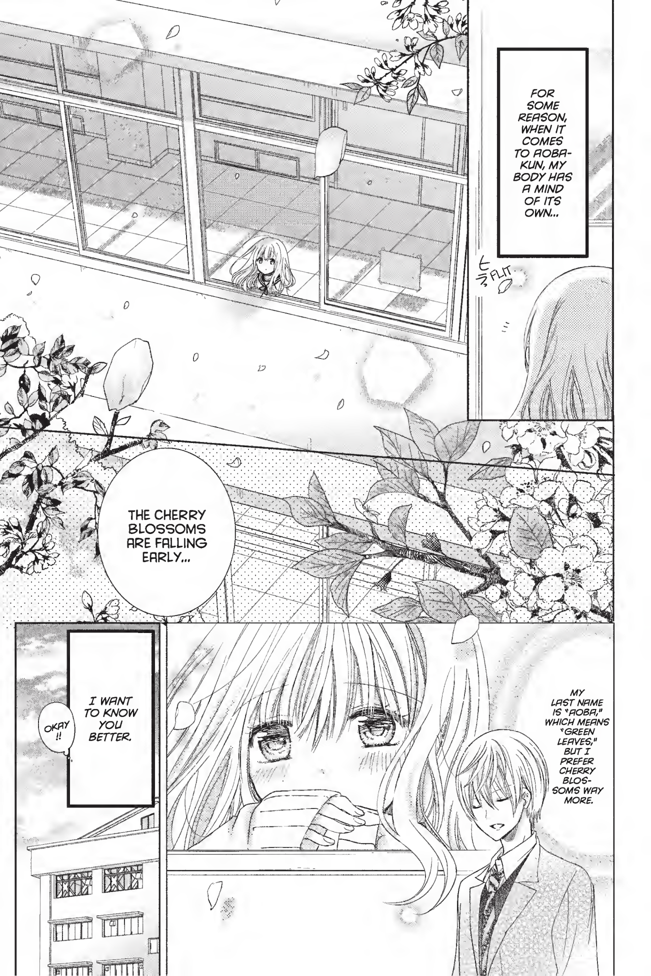

CAT WALK
LET'S MOVE FORWARD TOG

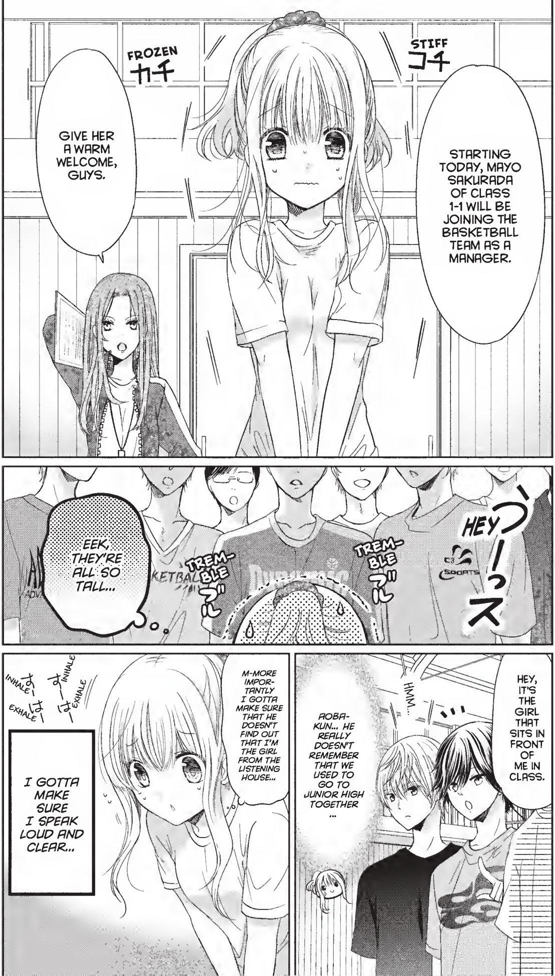
## Time: 3

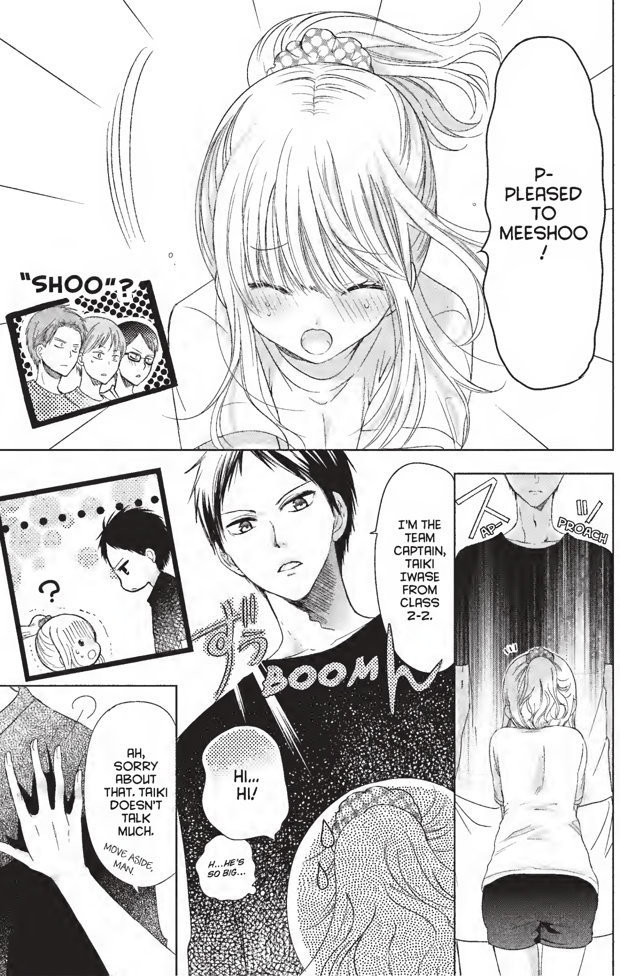
## IT'S OKAY IF IT'S NOT TRUE.

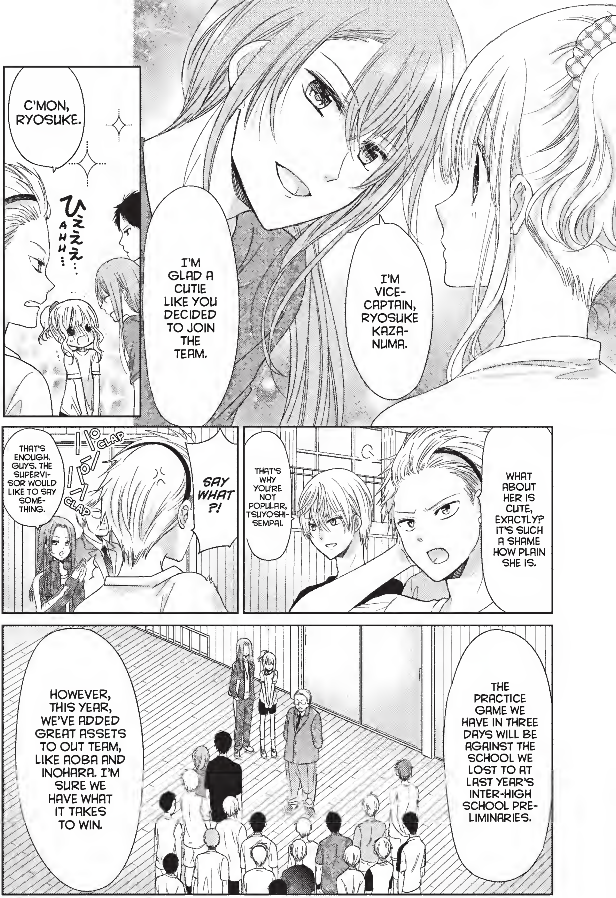

HUH?
YOU BECAME A MANAGER FOR THE BASKETBALL TEAM SO YOU CAN GET TO KNOW SOME BOY BETTER?
A... ARE YOU AGAINST IT?
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME AS LONG AS YOU CAN PUT IN THE HOURS AT WORK.
PHEW!
JEEZ... I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BECOME SO PROACTIVE OVER A BOY.

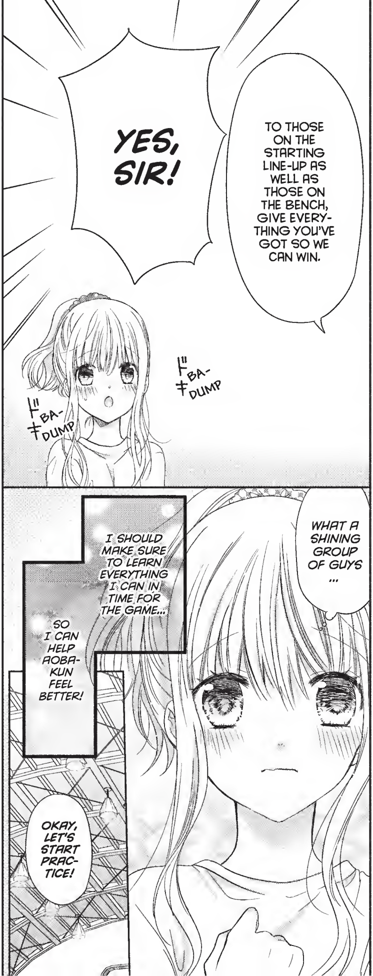
# AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS


FOR SOME REASON, WHEN IT COMES TO AOBA-KUN, MY BODY HAS A MIND OF ITS OWN...
ヒラ FLIT
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS ARE FALLING EARLY...
MY LAST NAME IS "AOBA," WHICH MEANS "GREEN LEAVES," BUT I PREFER CHERRY BLOSSOMS WAY MORE.
I WANT TO KNOW YOU BETTER.
OKAY!!

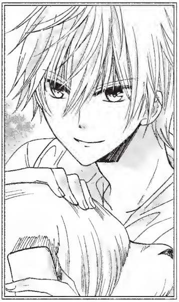

STARTING TODAY, MAYO SAKURADA OF CLASS 1-1 WILL BE JOINING THE BASKETBALL TEAM AS A MANAGER.
STIFF コチ
FROZEN カチ
GIVE HER A WARM WELCOME, GUYS.
HEY うーっス
TREMBLE ブル
TREMBLE ブル
EEK, THEY'RE ALL SO TALL...
HEY, IT'S THE GIRL THAT SITS IN FRONT OF ME IN CLASS.
HMM...
AOBA-KUN... HE REALLY DOESN'T REMEMBER THAT WE USED TO GO TO JUNIOR HIGH TOGETHER...
M-MORE IMPORTANTLY I GOTTA MAKE SURE THAT HE DOESN'T FIND OUT THAT I'M THE GIRL FROM THE LISTENING HOUSE...
INHALE すー EXHALE はー
INHALE すー EXHALE はー
I GOTTA MAKE SURE I SPEAK LOUD AND CLEAR...


P-PLEASED TO MEESHOO!
"SHOO"?
AP- -PROACH
I'M THE TEAM CAPTAIN, TAIKI IWASE FROM CLASS 2-2.
BOOM
...
?
HI... HI!
H...HE'S SO BIG...
AH, SORRY ABOUT THAT. TAIKI DOESN'T TALK MUCH.
MOVE ASIDE, MAN.

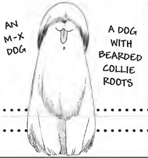

I'M VICE-CAPTAIN, RYOSUKE KAZANUMA.
I'M GLAD A CUTIE LIKE YOU DECIDED TO JOIN THE TEAM.
C'MON, RYOSUKE.
ひえええ… AHH…
WHAT ABOUT HER IS CUTE, EXACTLY? IT'S SUCH A SHAME HOW PLAIN SHE IS.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NOT POPULAR, TSUYOSHI-SEMPAI.
SAY WHAT?!
パン CLAP
パン CLAP
THAT'S ENOUGH, GUYS. THE SUPERVISOR WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING.
THE PRACTICE GAME WE HAVE IN THREE DAYS WILL BE AGAINST THE SCHOOL WE LOST TO AT LAST YEAR'S INTER-HIGH SCHOOL PRELIMINARIES.
HOWEVER, THIS YEAR, WE'VE ADDED GREAT ASSETS TO OUT TEAM, LIKE AOBA AND INOHARA. I'M SURE WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN.

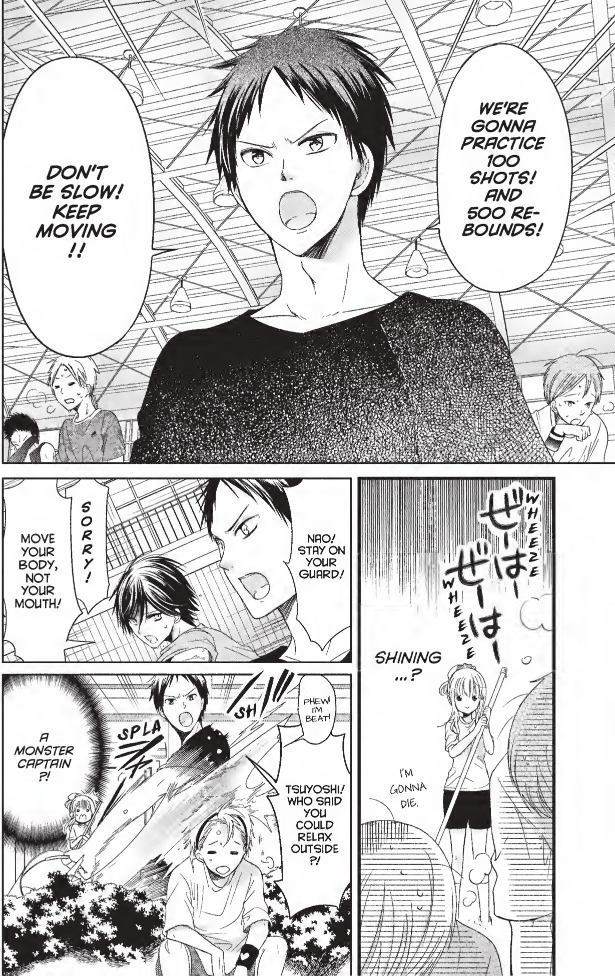

TO THOSE ON THE STARTING LINE-UP AS WELL AS THOSE ON THE BENCH, GIVE EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT SO WE CAN WIN.
YES, SIR!
ド BA- キ DUMP
ド BA- キ DUMP
WHAT A SHINING GROUP OF GUYS ...
I SHOULD MAKE SURE TO LEARN EVERYTHING I CAN IN TIME FOR THE GAME...
SO I CAN HELP AOBA-KUN FEEL BETTER!
OKAY, LET'S START PRACTICE!

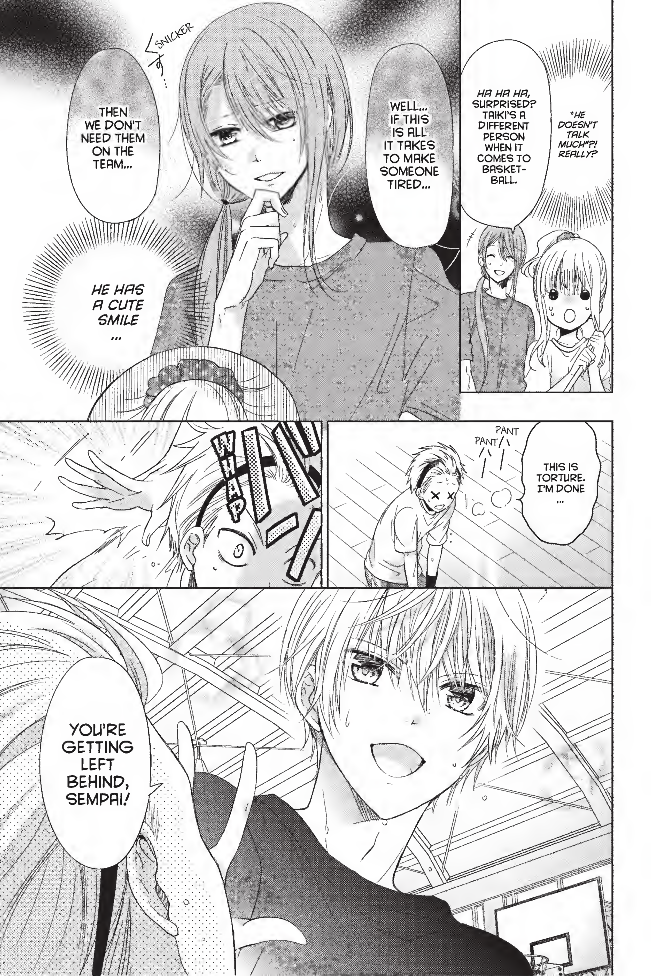
KOTA AOBA
BORN AUGUST 7TH
BLOOD TYPE: A
HEIGHT: 184CM
FAVORITE FOOD:
GYOZA
TOMATO JUICE

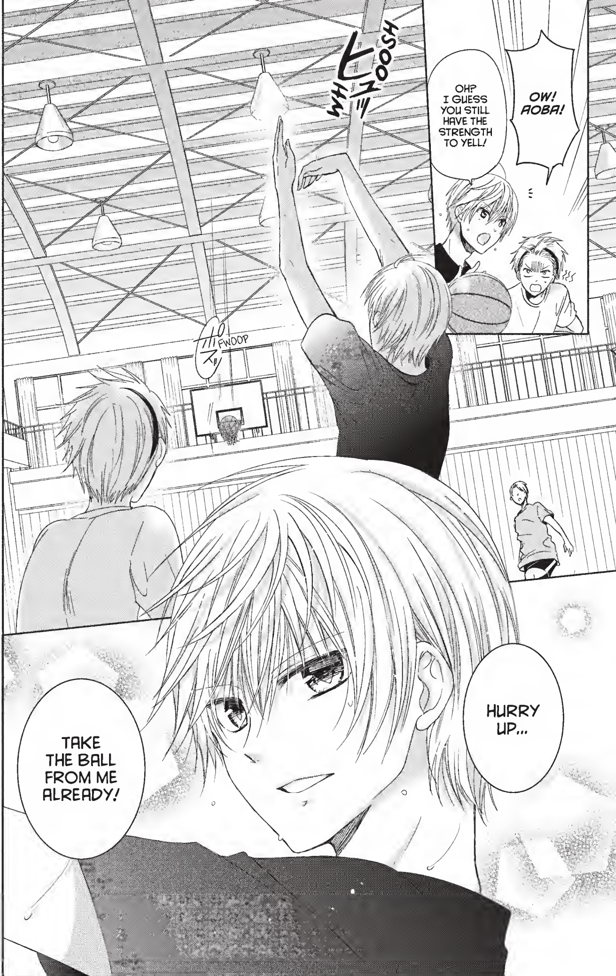


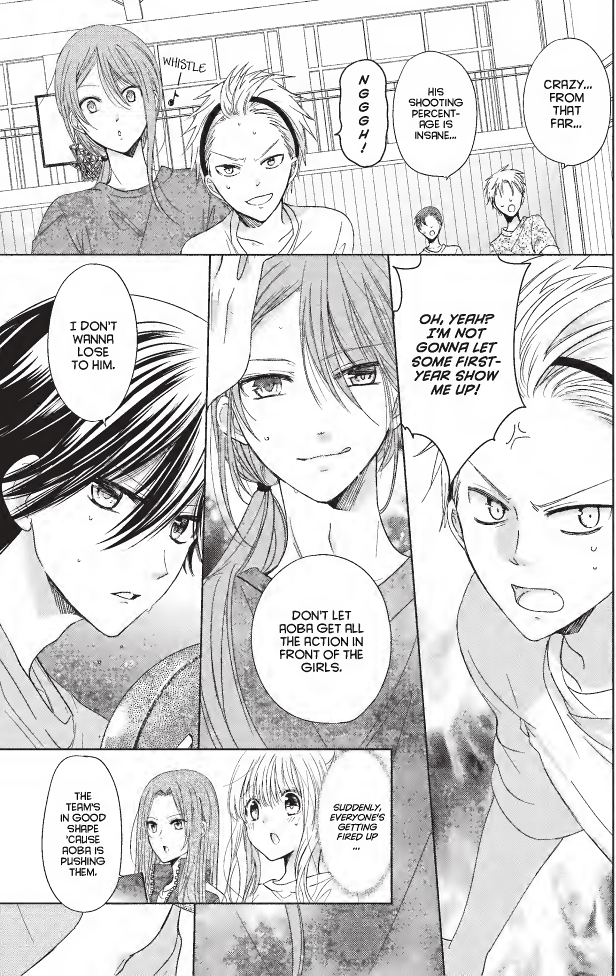
6:30 AM
WALKING HIS BELOVED
DOG LUCKY WHILE
OUT FOR A JOG.

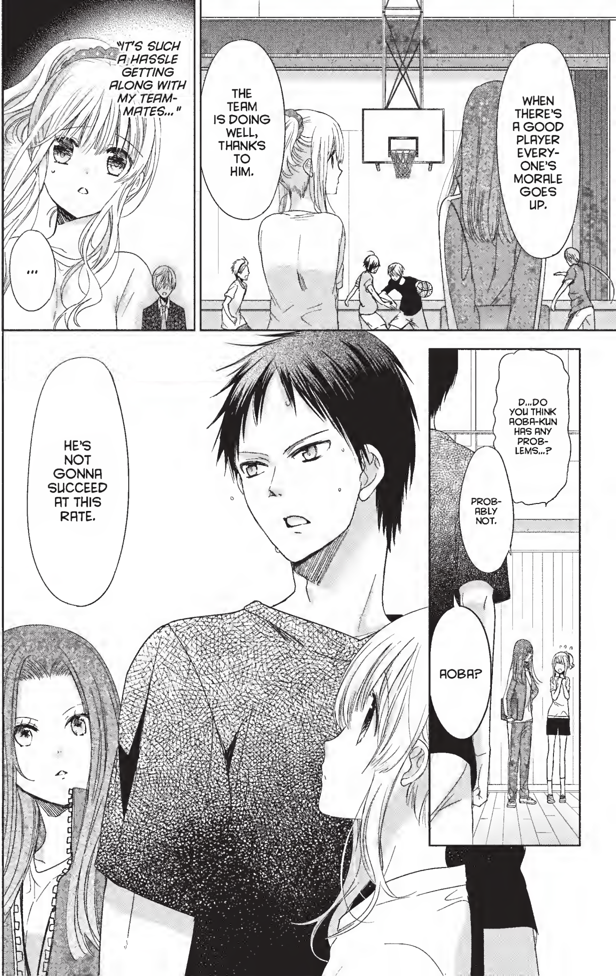

AN M-X DOG
A DOG WITH BEARDED COLLIE ROOTS

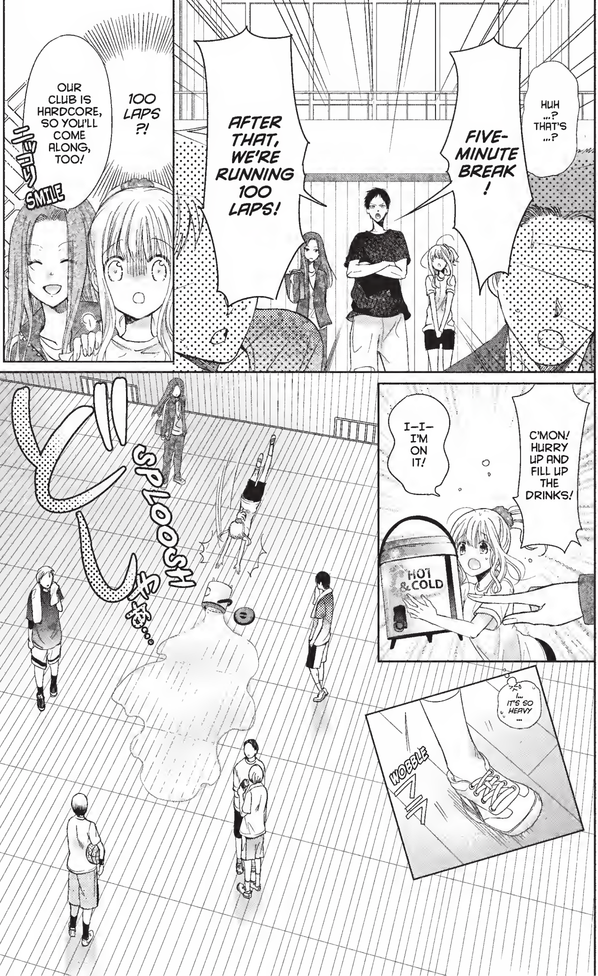

WE'RE GONNA PRACTICE 100 SHOTS! AND 500 RE-BOUNDS!
DON'T BE SLOW! KEEP MOVING!!
ゼーはー WHEEZE
ゼーはー WHEEZE
SHINING ...?
I'M GONNA DIE.
NAO! STAY ON YOUR GUARD!
SORRY!
MOVE YOUR BODY, NOT YOUR MOUTH!
PHEW! I'M BEAT!
SPLASH
TSUYOSHI! WHO SAID YOU COULD RELAX OUTSIDE?!
A MONSTER CAPTAIN?!

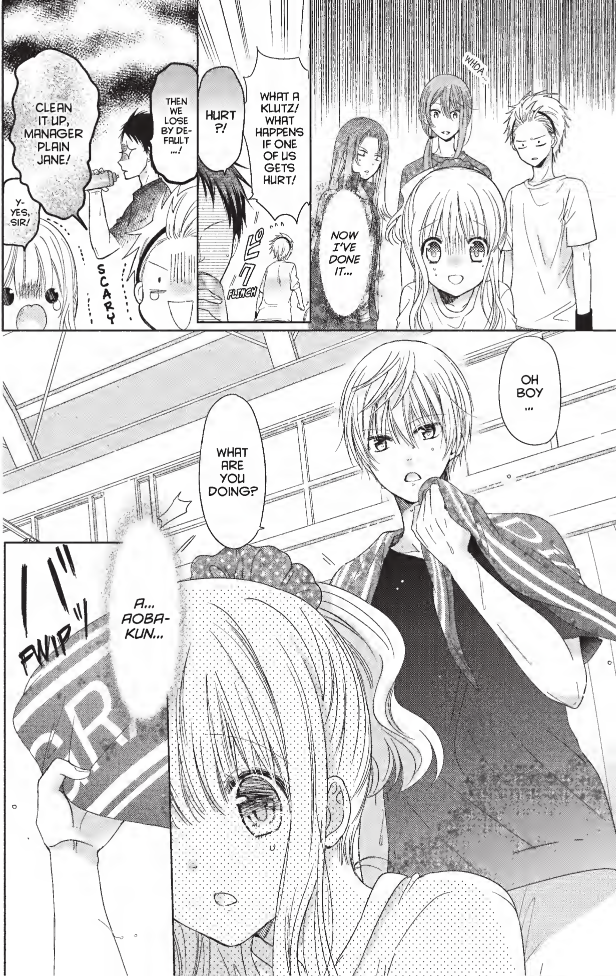

"HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH"?! REALLY?
HA HA HA, SURPRISED? TAIKI'S A DIFFERENT PERSON WHEN IT COMES TO BASKETBALL.
WELL... IF THIS IS ALL IT TAKES TO MAKE SOMEONE TIRED...
SNICKER
す…
THEN WE DON'T NEED THEM ON THE TEAM...
HE HAS A CUTE SMILE ...
PANT PANT
THIS IS TORTURE. I'M DONE ...
WHIP
YOU'RE GETTING LEFT BEHIND, SEMPAI!

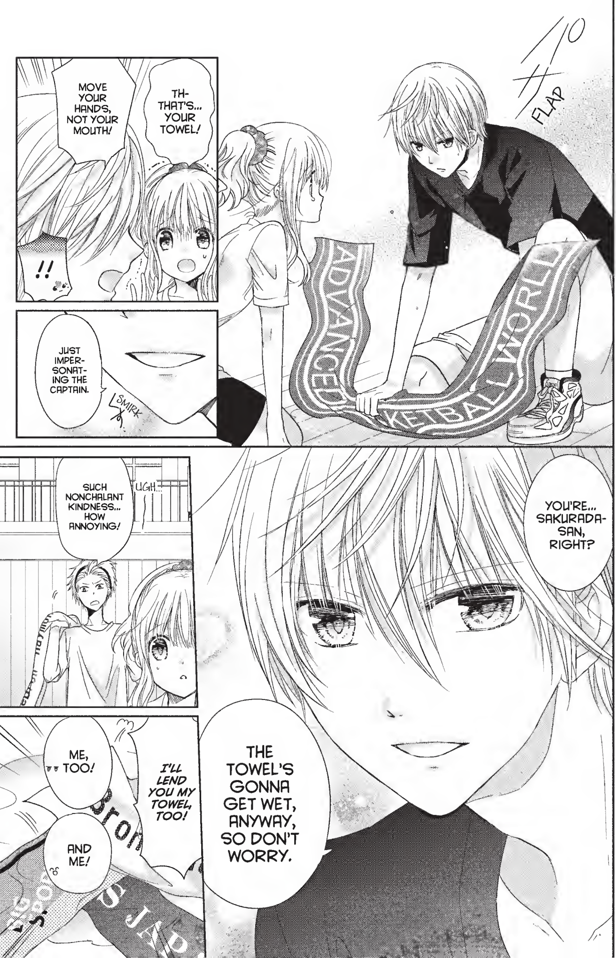

OW! AOBA!
OH? I GUESS YOU STILL HAVE THE STRENGTH TO YELL!
WHOOSH
FWOOP
HURRY UP...
TAKE THE BALL FROM ME ALREADY!

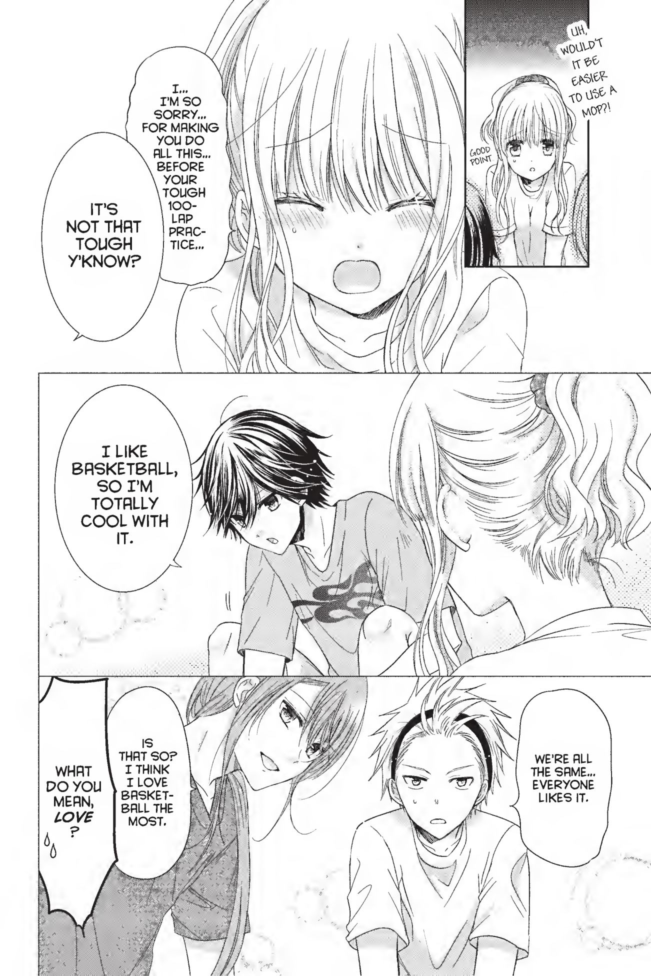

CRAZY... FROM THAT FAR...
HIS SHOOTING PERCENTAGE IS INSANE...
NGGGH!
WHISTLE
OH, YEAH? I'M NOT GONNA LET SOME FIRST-YEAR SHOW ME UP!
DON'T LET AOBA GET ALL THE ACTION IN FRONT OF THE GIRLS.
I DON'T WANNA LOSE TO HIM.
SUDDENLY, EVERYONE'S GETTING FIRED UP ...
THE TEAM'S IN GOOD SHAPE 'CAUSE AOBA IS PUSHING THEM.

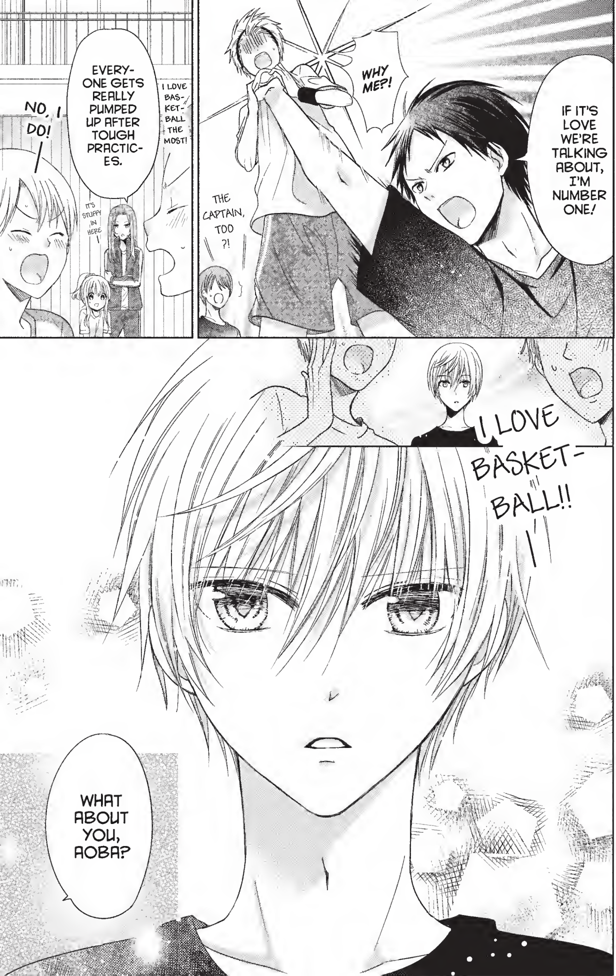

WHEN THERE'S A GOOD PLAYER EVERYONE'S MORALE GOES UP.
THE TEAM IS DOING WELL, THANKS TO HIM.
"IT'S SUCH A HASSLE GETTING ALONG WITH MY TEAMMATES..."
...
D...DO YOU THINK AOBA-KUN HAS ANY PROBLEMS...?
PROBABLY NOT.
AOBA?
HE'S NOT GONNA SUCCEED AT THIS RATE.

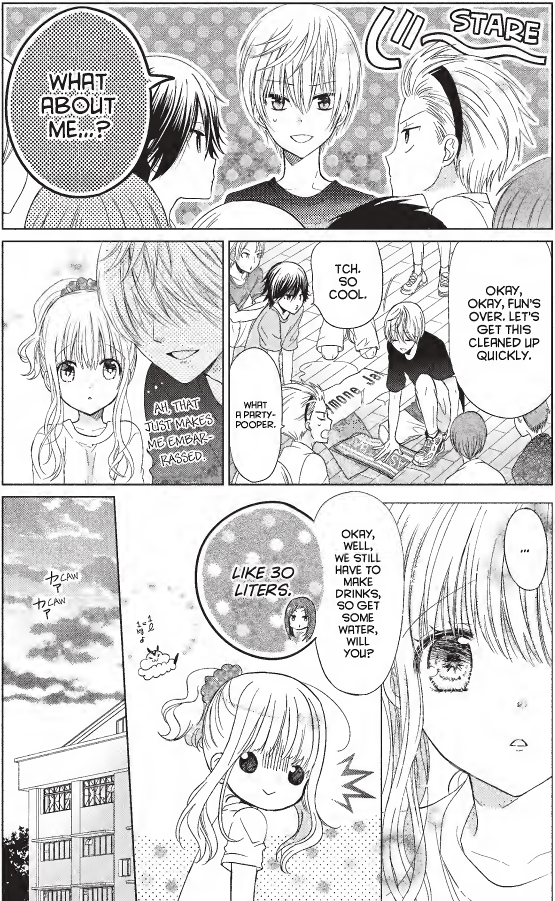

HUH ...? THAT'S ...?
FIVE-MINUTE BREAK!
AFTER THAT, WE'RE RUNNING 100 LAPS!
100 LAPS?!
OUR CLUB IS HARDCORE, SO YOU'LL COME ALONG, TOO!
ニッコリ
SMILE
C'MON! HURRY UP AND FILL UP THE DRINKS!
I—I—I'M ON IT!
HOT & COLD
I... IT'S SO HEAVY...
WOBBLE
SPLOOSH

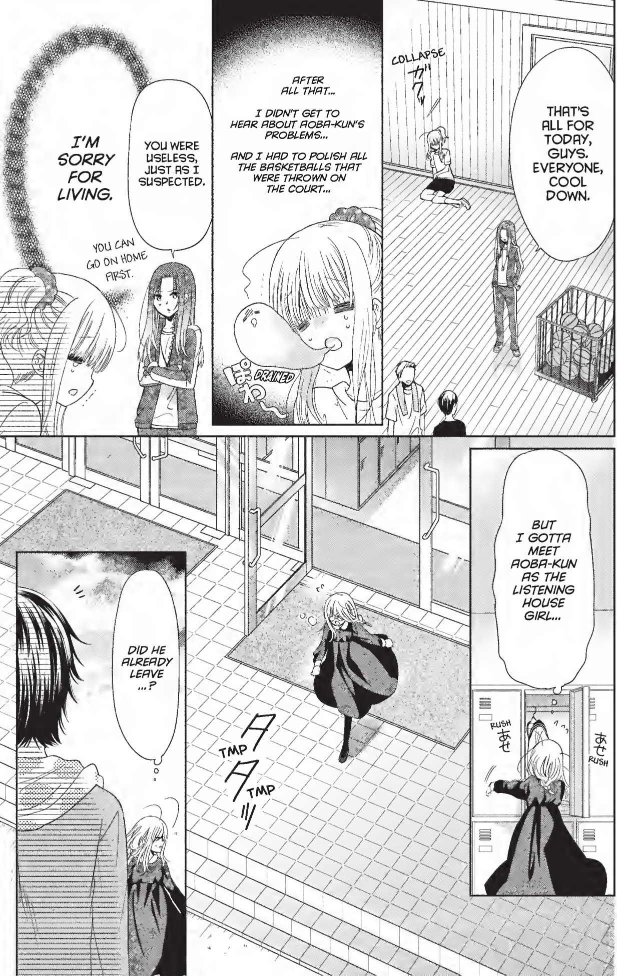

WHOA...
NOW I'VE DONE IT...
WHAT A KLUTZ! WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE OF US GETS HURT!
HURT?!
ピク
FLINCH
THEN WE LOSE BY DEFAULT...!
CLEAN IT UP, MANAGER PLAIN JANE!
Y-YES, SIR!
SCARY
OH BOY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
A... AOBA-KUN...
FWIP

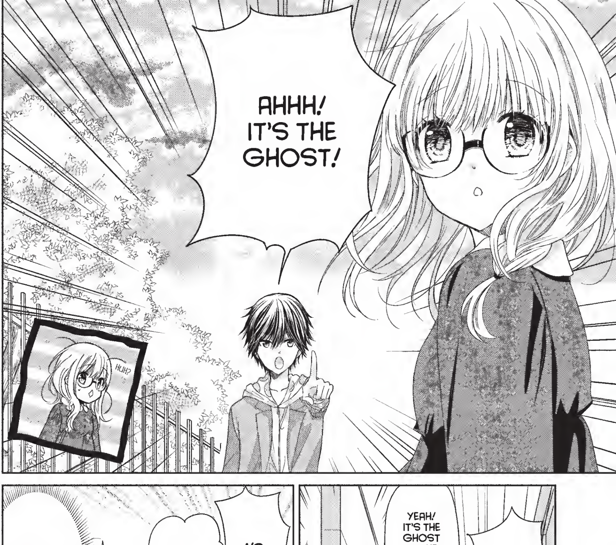

FLAP
ADVANCED
KETBALL WORLD
TH-THAT'S... YOUR TOWEL!
MOVE YOUR HANDS, NOT YOUR MOUTH!
!!
JUST IMPERSONATING THE CAPTAIN.
SMIRK
YOU'RE... SAKURADA-SAN, RIGHT?
THE TOWEL'S GONNA GET WET, ANYWAY, SO DON'T WORRY.
SUCH NONCHALANT KINDNESS... HOW ANNOYING!
UGH...
*I'LL LEND YOU MY TOWEL, TOO!*
ME, TOO!
AND ME!

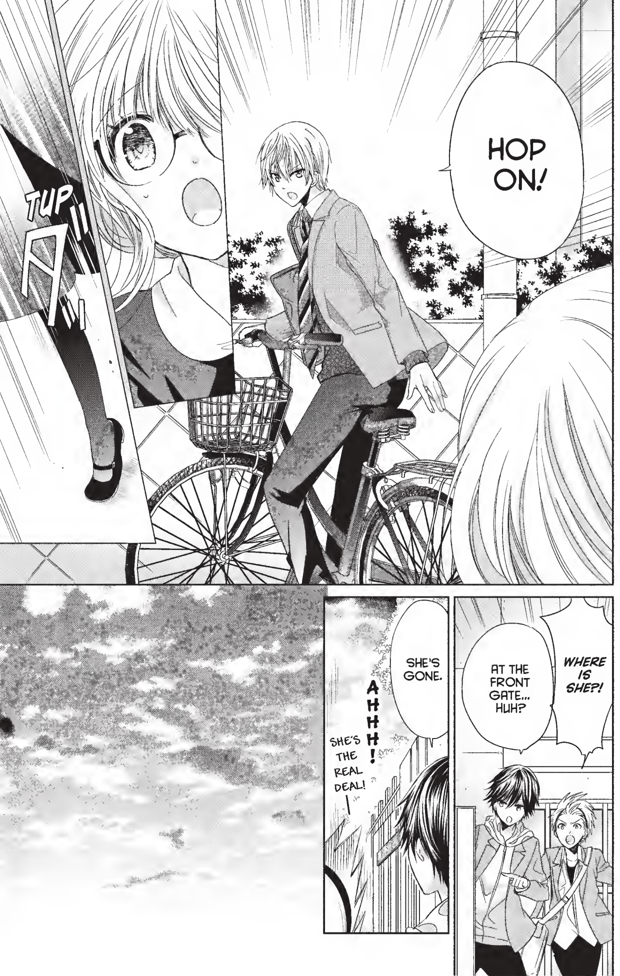

UH, WOULD'T IT BE EASIER TO USE A MOP?!
GOOD POINT
I... I'M SO SORRY... FOR MAKING YOU DO ALL THIS... BEFORE YOUR TOUGH 100-LAP PRACTICE...
IT'S NOT THAT TOUGH Y'KNOW?
I LIKE BASKETBALL, SO I'M TOTALLY COOL WITH IT.
WE'RE ALL THE SAME... EVERYONE LIKES IT.
IS THAT SO? I THINK I LOVE BASKETBALL THE MOST.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *LOVE*?

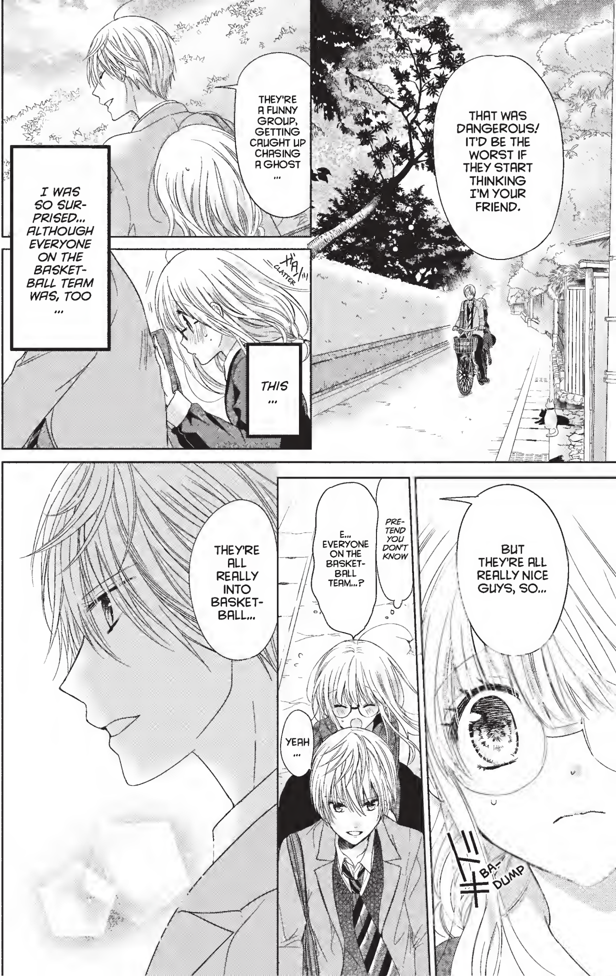

IF IT'S LOVE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, I'M NUMBER ONE!
WHY ME?!
THE CAPTAIN, TOO?!
EVERYONE GETS REALLY PUMPED UP AFTER TOUGH PRACTICES.
I LOVE BASKETBALL THE MOST!
NO, I DO!
IT'S STUFFY IN HERE
I LOVE BASKETBALL!!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, AOBA?

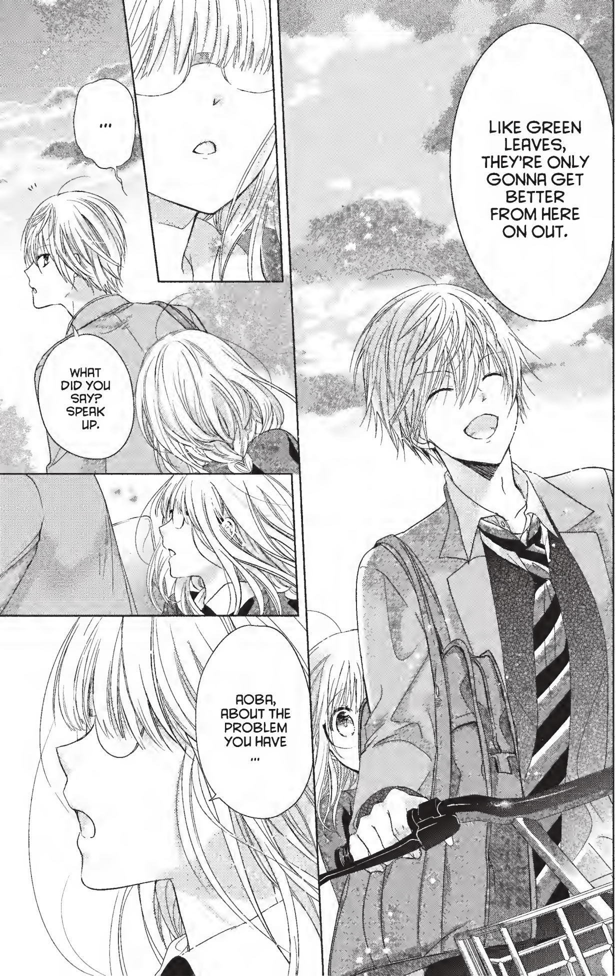

STARE
WHAT ABOUT ME...?
OKAY, OKAY, FUN'S OVER. LET'S GET THIS CLEANED UP QUICKLY.
TCH. SO COOL.
WHAT A PARTY-POOPER.
AH, THAT JUST MAKES ME EMBARRASSED.
...
OKAY, WELL, WE STILL HAVE TO MAKE DRINKS, SO GET SOME WATER, WILL YOU?
LIKE 30 LITERS.
1 kg = 1 ℓ
カア CAW
カア CAW

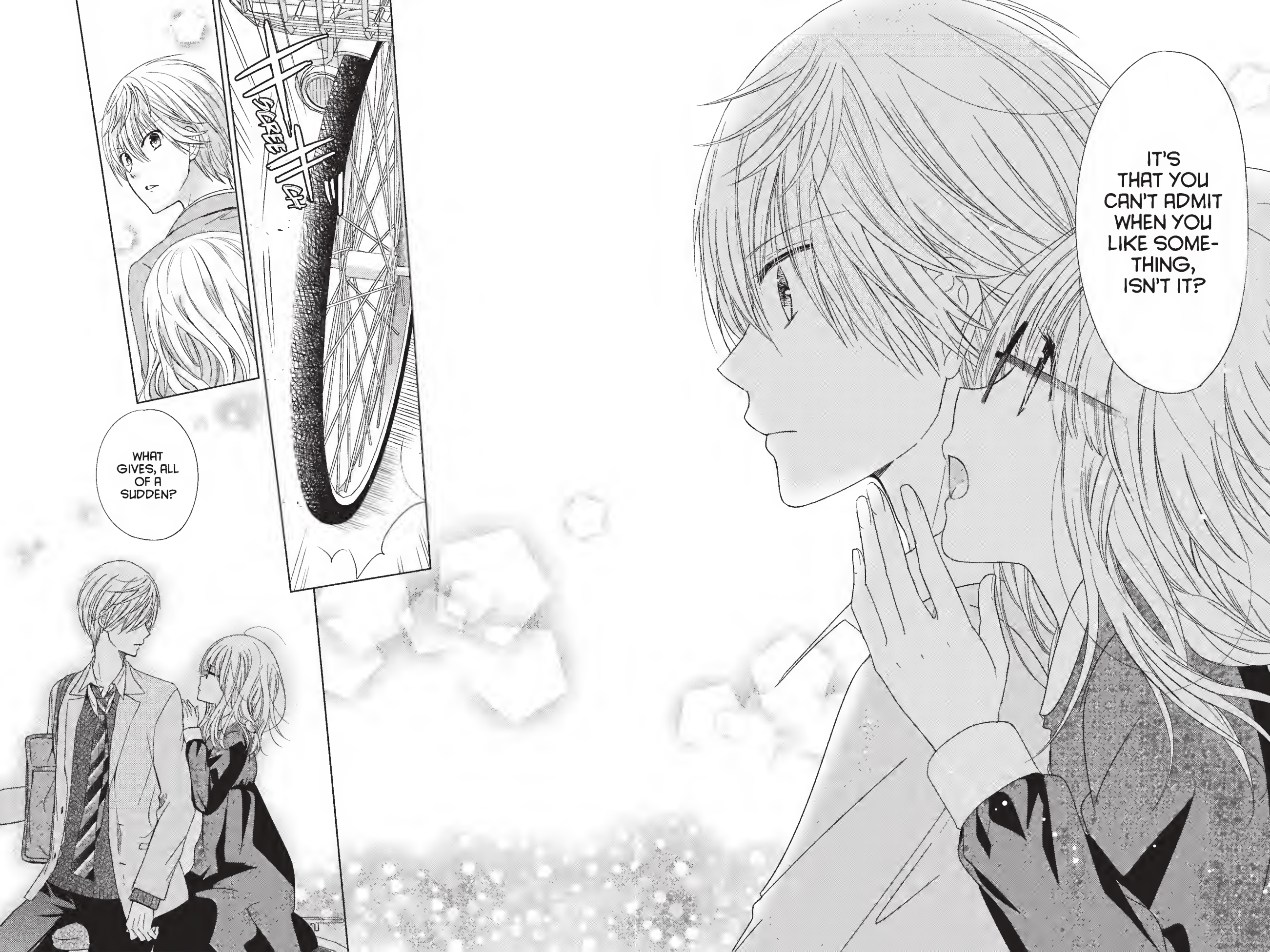

THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY, GUYS. EVERYONE, COOL DOWN.
COLLAPSE ガクッ
AFTER ALL THAT...
I DIDN'T GET TO HEAR ABOUT AOBA-KUN'S PROBLEMS...
AND I HAD TO POLISH ALL THE BASKETBALLS THAT WERE THROWN ON THE COURT...
ぽわ〜 DRAINED
YOU WERE USELESS, JUST AS I SUSPECTED.
I'M SORRY FOR LIVING.
YOU CAN GO ON HOME FIRST.
BUT I GOTTA MEET AOBA-KUN AS THE LISTENING HOUSE GIRL...
あせ RUSH
あせ RUSH
タ TMP
タッ TMP
DID HE ALREADY LEAVE ...?

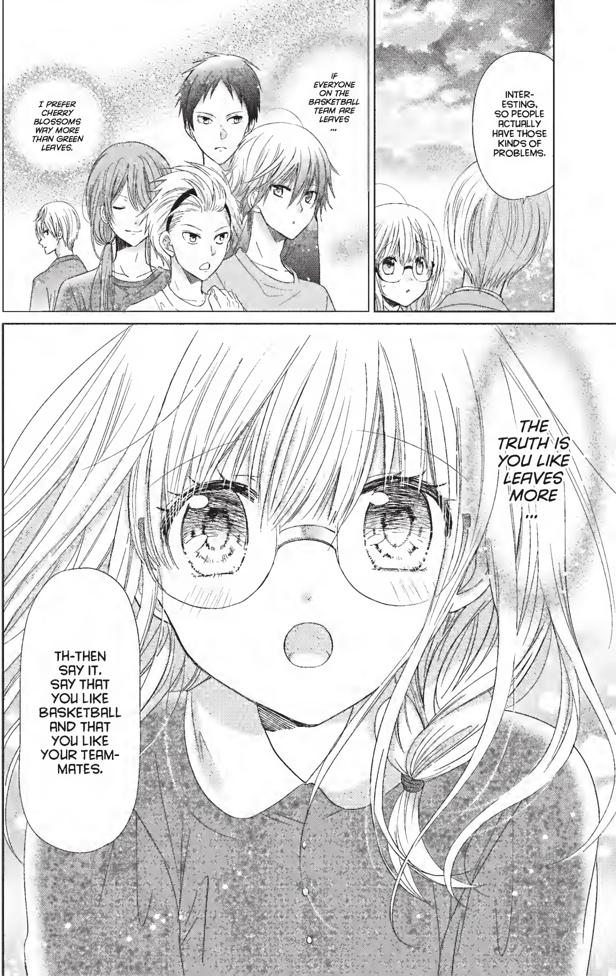

AHHH! IT'S THE GHOST!
HUH?
ARE YOU SERIOUS, NAO?!
YEAH! IT'S THE GHOST AT THE SCHOOL GATE THAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT!
NO WAY! LET'S GET HER!
SEMPAI! HURRY, HURRY!
GET HER ...?!
EEEK!
SHE'S RUNNING AWAY!!
HEY! OVER HERE!

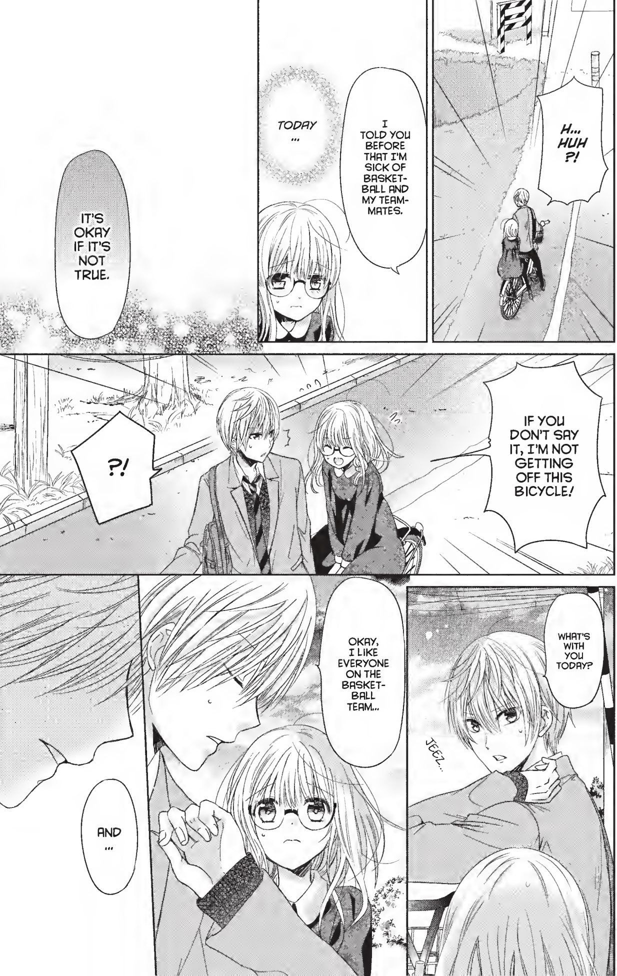

HOP ON!
TUP
A
WHERE IS SHE?!
AT THE FRONT GATE... HUH?
SHE'S GONE.
AHHH!
SHE'S THE REAL DEAL!

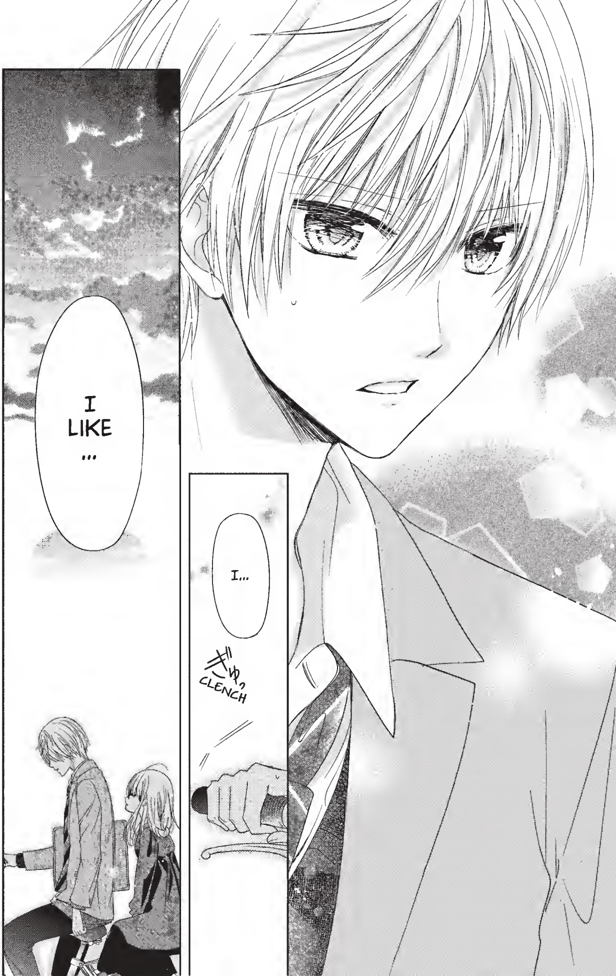

THAT WAS DANGEROUS! IT'D BE THE WORST IF THEY START THINKING I'M YOUR FRIEND.
THEY'RE A FUNNY GROUP, GETTING CAUGHT UP CHASING A GHOST ...
I WAS SO SURPRISED... ALTHOUGH EVERYONE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM WAS, TOO ...
CLATTER
THIS ...
BUT THEY'RE ALL REALLY NICE GUYS, SO...
BA-DUMP
PRETEND YOU DON'T KNOW
E... EVERYONE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM...?
YEAH ...
THEY'RE ALL REALLY INTO BASKETBALL...

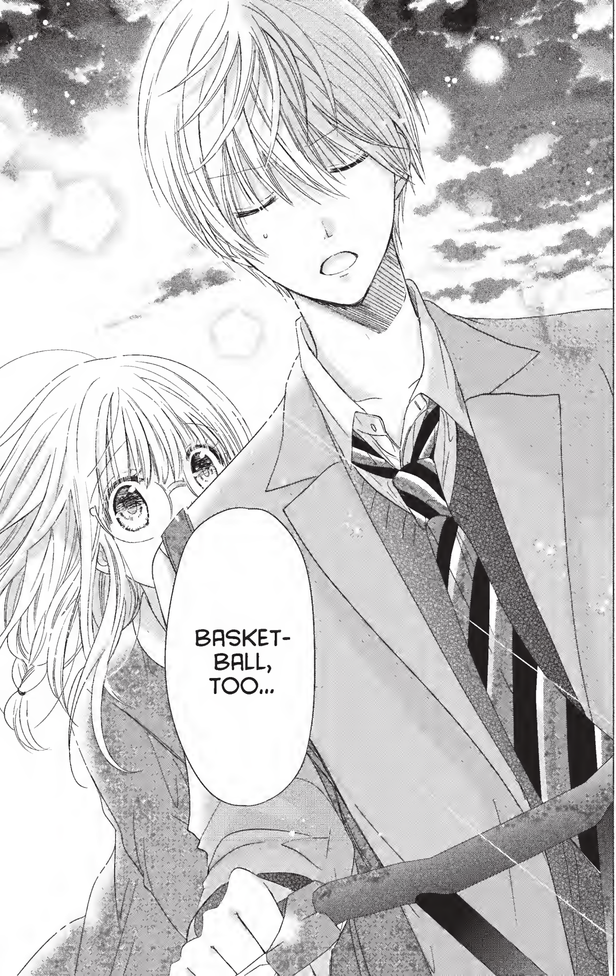

LIKE GREEN LEAVES, THEY'RE ONLY GONNA GET BETTER FROM HERE ON OUT.
...
WHAT DID YOU SAY? SPEAK UP.
AOBA, ABOUT THE PROBLEM YOU HAVE ...

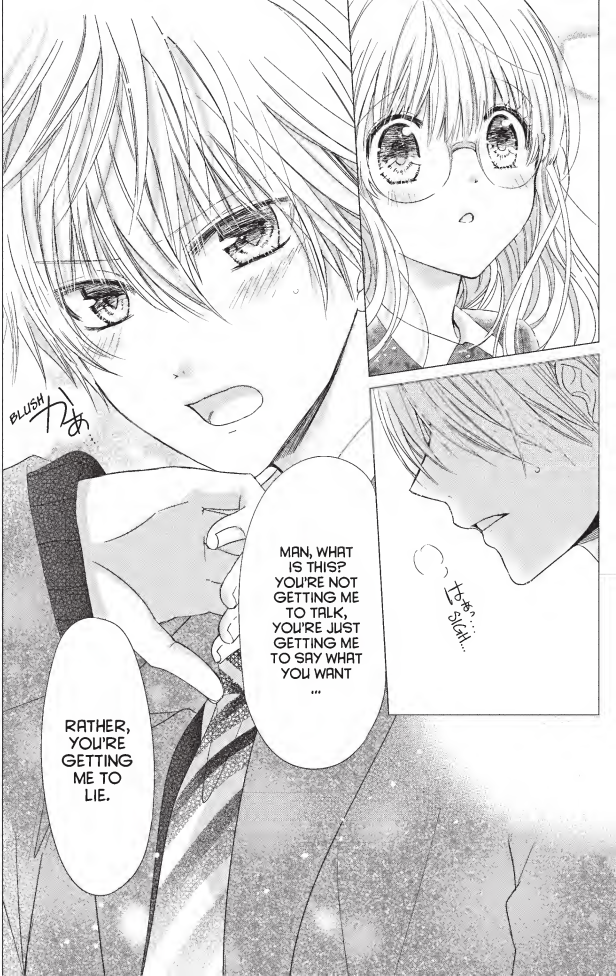

IT'S THAT YOU CAN'T ADMIT WHEN YOU LIKE SOMETHING, ISN'T IT?
SCREECH
WHAT GIVES, ALL OF A SUDDEN?

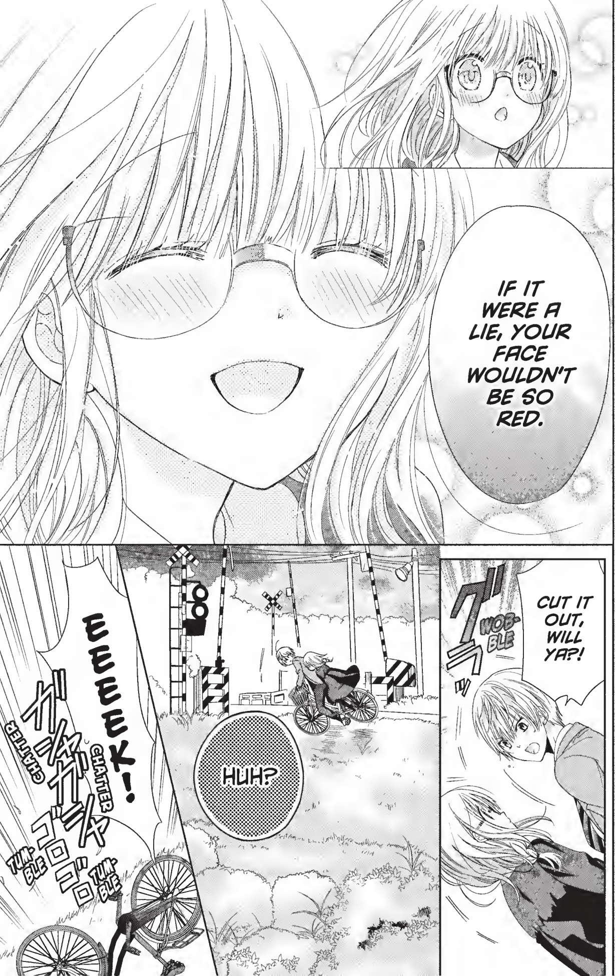

INTER-ESTING, SO PEOPLE ACTUALLY HAVE THOSE KINDS OF PROBLEMS.
IF EVERYONE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM ARE LEAVES ...
I PREFER CHERRY BLOSSOMS WAY MORE THAN GREEN LEAVES.
THE TRUTH IS YOU LIKE LEAVES MORE ...
TH-THEN SAY IT. SAY THAT YOU LIKE BASKETBALL AND THAT YOU LIKE YOUR TEAMMATES.

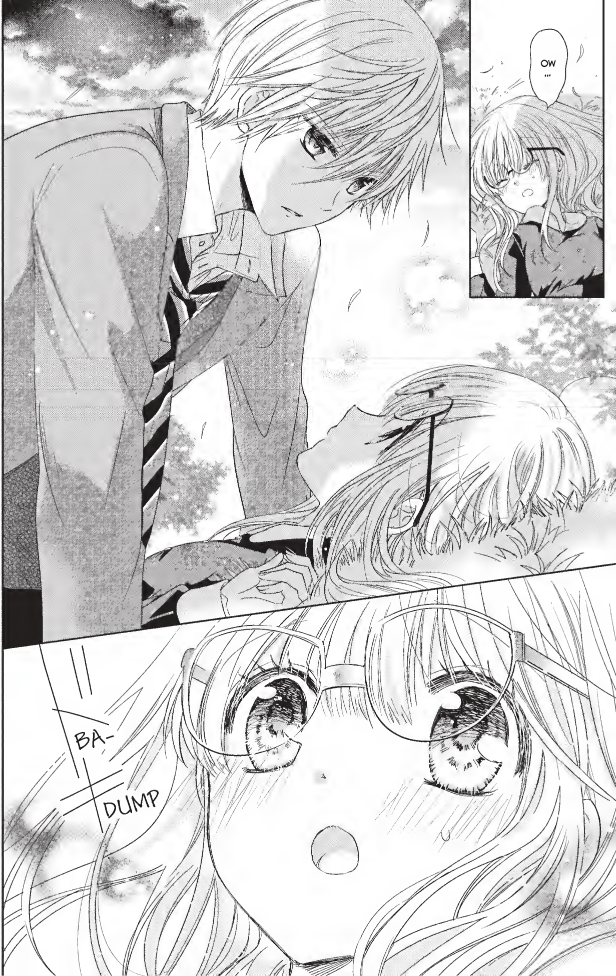

H... HUH ?!
I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I'M SICK OF BASKETBALL AND MY TEAMMATES.
TODAY ...
IT'S OKAY IF IT'S NOT TRUE.
IF YOU DON'T SAY IT, I'M NOT GETTING OFF THIS BICYCLE!
?!
WHAT'S WITH YOU TODAY?
JEEZ...
OKAY, I LIKE EVERYONE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM...
AND ...

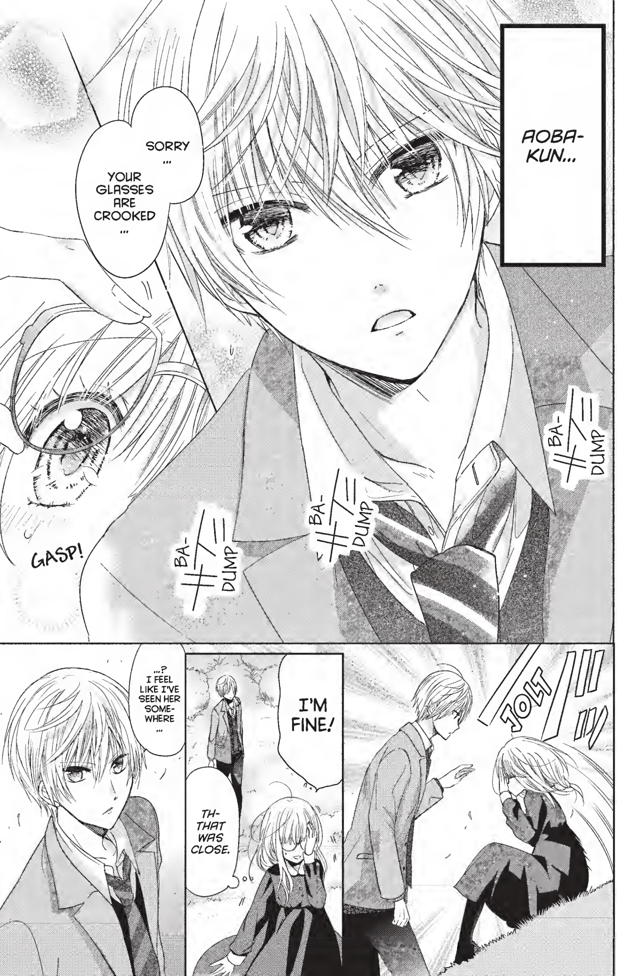

I...
ぎゅっ CLENCH
I LIKE ...

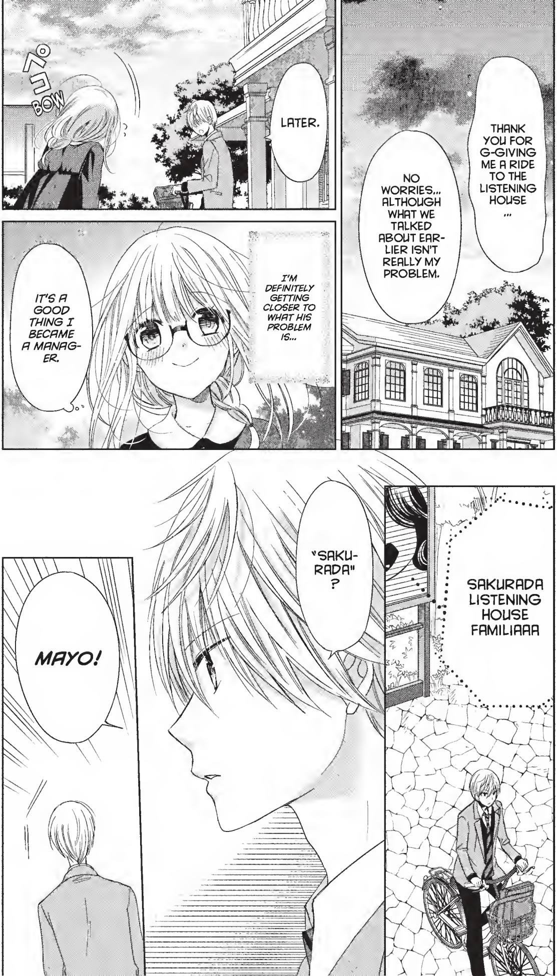

BASKET-BALL, TOO...

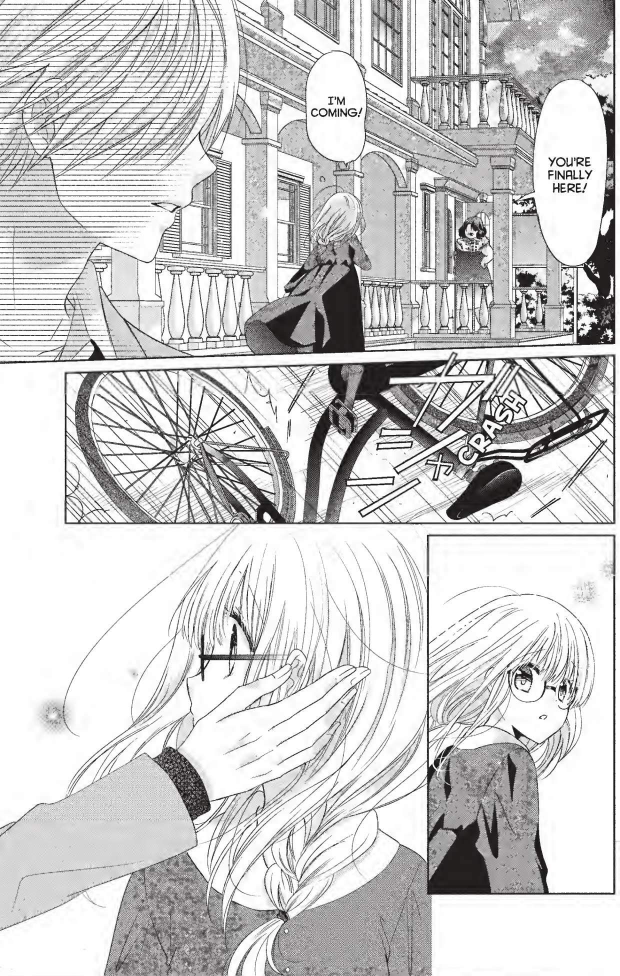

BLUSH
かぁ
はぁっ…
SIGH…
MAN, WHAT IS THIS? YOU'RE NOT GETTING ME TO TALK, YOU'RE JUST GETTING ME TO SAY WHAT YOU WANT …
RATHER, YOU'RE GETTING ME TO LIE.

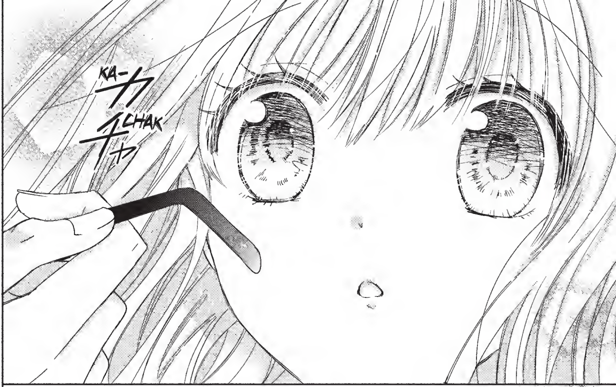

IF IT WERE A LIE, YOUR FACE WOULDN'T BE SO RED.
グラッ
WOB-BLE
CUT IT OUT, WILL YA?!
HUH?
EEEEEK!
ガシャガシャ
CHATTER CHATTER
ゴロゴロ
TUM-BLE TUM-BLE

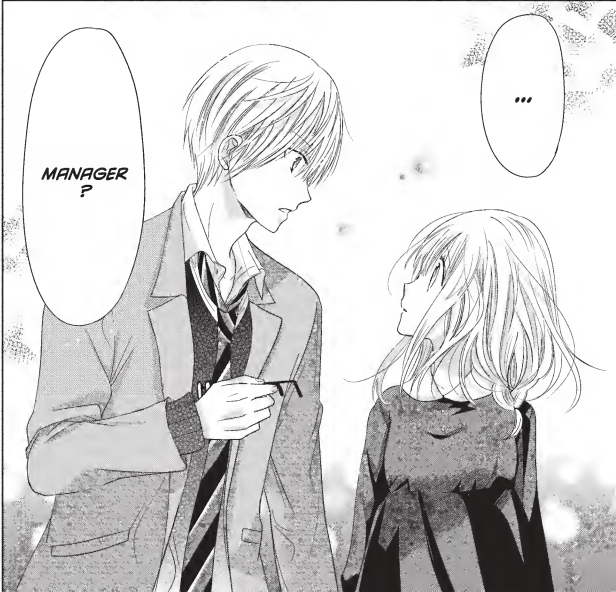

OW ...
BA-DUMP


AOBA-KUN...
SORRY ... YOUR GLASSES ARE CROOKED ...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
GASP!
JOLT
I'M FINE!
TH-THAT WAS CLOSE.
...? I FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE ...


THANK YOU FOR G-GIVING ME A RIDE TO THE LISTENING HOUSE...
NO WORRIES... ALTHOUGH WHAT WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER ISN'T REALLY MY PROBLEM.
LATER.
ペコ BOW
I'M DEFINITELY GETTING CLOSER TO WHAT HIS PROBLEM IS...
IT'S A GOOD THING I BECAME A MANAGER.
SAKURADA LISTENING HOUSE FAMILIAAA
"SAKURADA"?
MAYO!

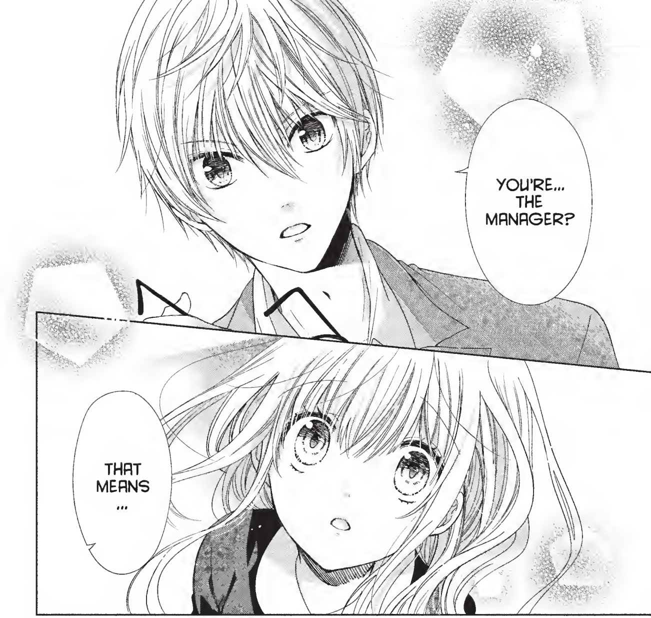

YOU'RE FINALLY HERE!
I'M COMING!
CRASH


KA-
カ
CHAK
チャ

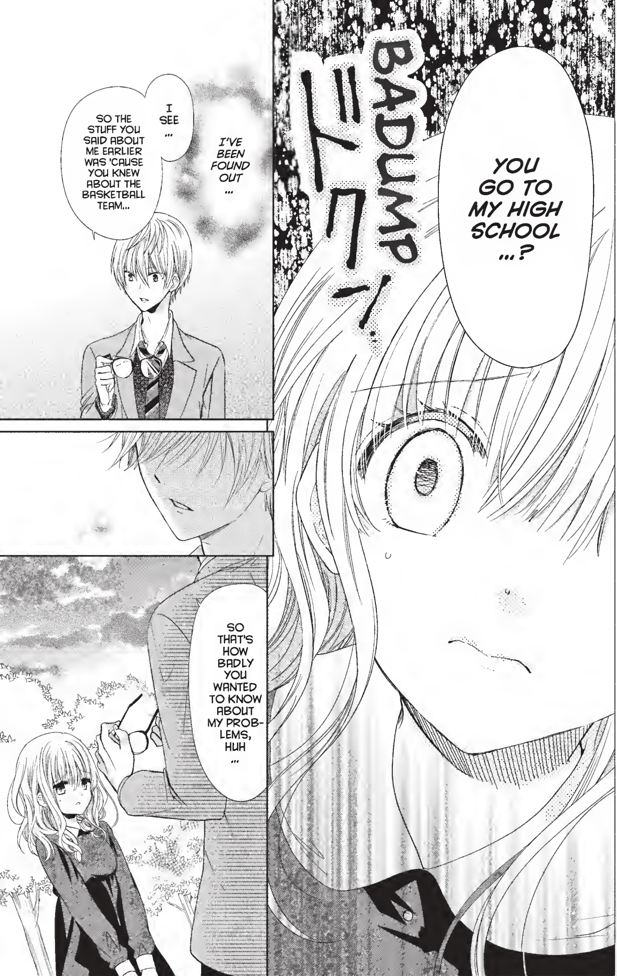

...
MANAGER?

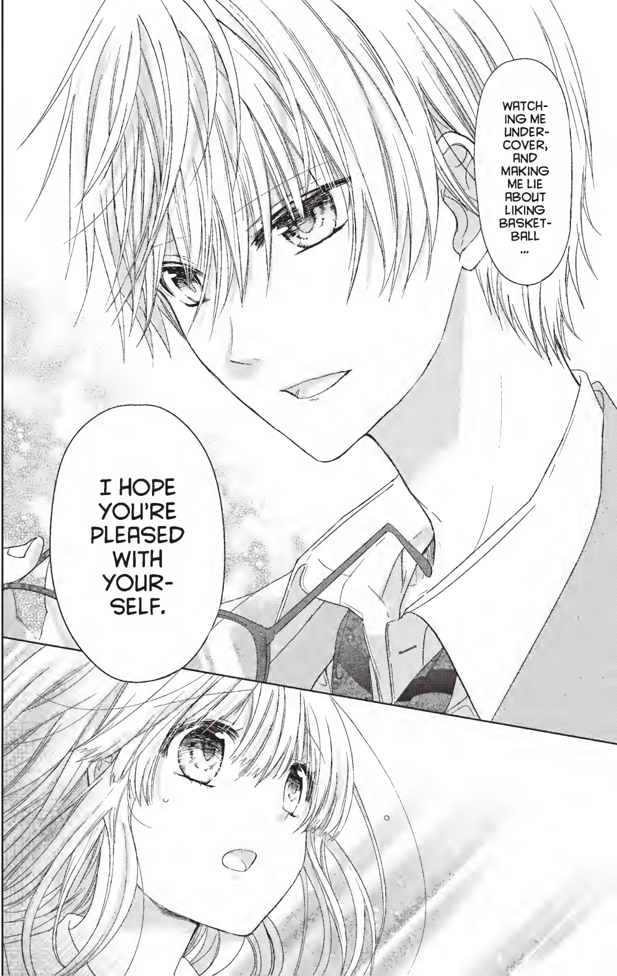
## Time : 4

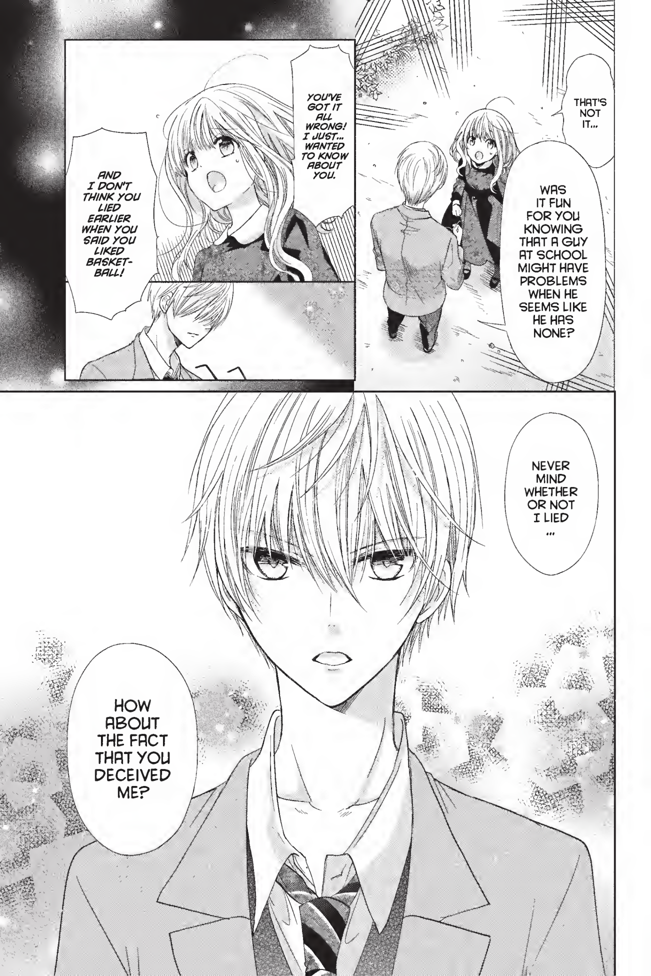
## THAT'S FINE.

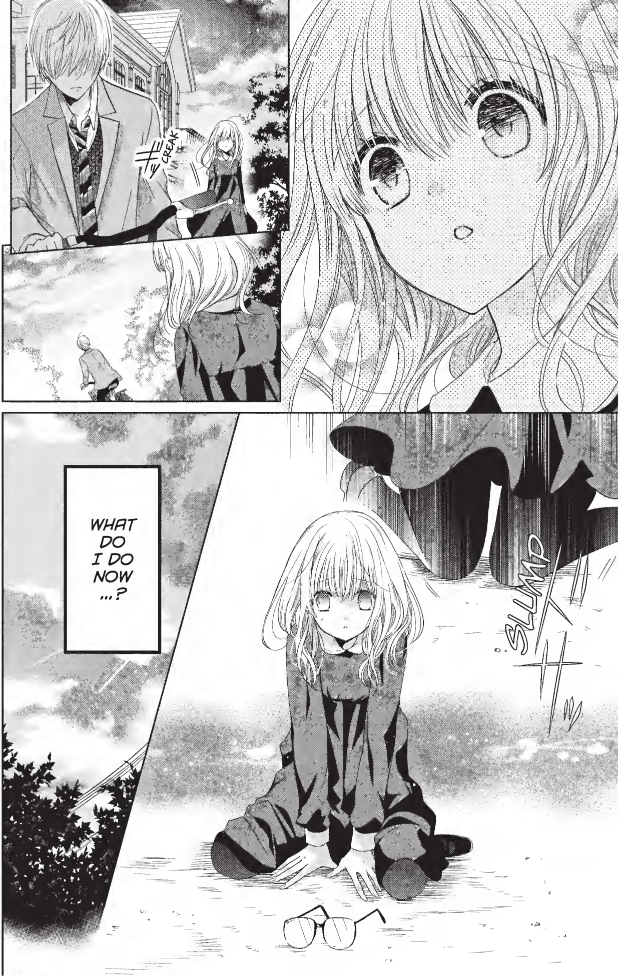

YOU'RE... THE MANAGER?
THAT MEANS ...

# AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS


BADUMP
ドクン!
YOU GO TO MY HIGH SCHOOL ...?
I SEE ...
I'VE BEEN FOUND OUT ...
SO THE STUFF YOU SAID ABOUT ME EARLIER WAS 'CAUSE YOU KNEW ABOUT THE BASKETBALL TEAM...
SO THAT'S HOW BADLY YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT MY PROBLEMS, HUH ...

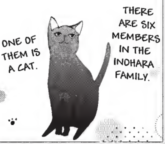

WATCHING ME UNDERCOVER, AND MAKING ME LIE ABOUT LIKING BASKETBALL ...
I HOPE YOU'RE PLEASED WITH YOURSELF.

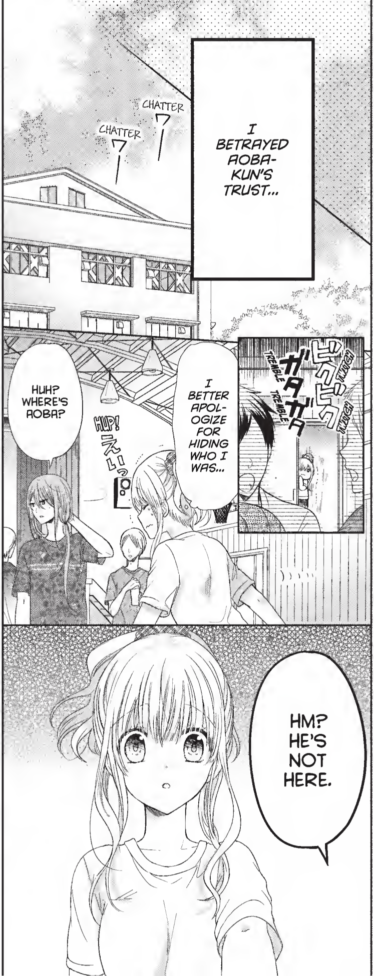

THAT'S NOT IT...
WAS IT FUN FOR YOU KNOWING THAT A GUY AT SCHOOL MIGHT HAVE PROBLEMS WHEN HE SEEMS LIKE HE HAS NONE?
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG! I JUST... WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU.
AND I DON'T THINK YOU LIED EARLIER WHEN YOU SAID YOU LIKED BASKETBALL!
NEVER MIND WHETHER OR NOT I LIED...
HOW ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU DECEIVED ME?

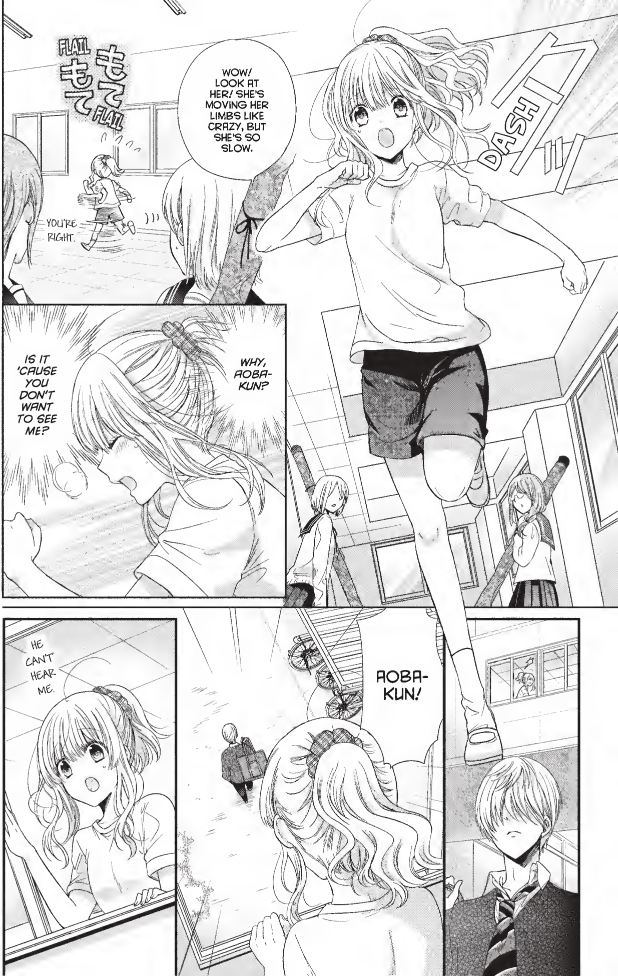

CREAK
SLUMP
WHAT DO I DO NOW ...?

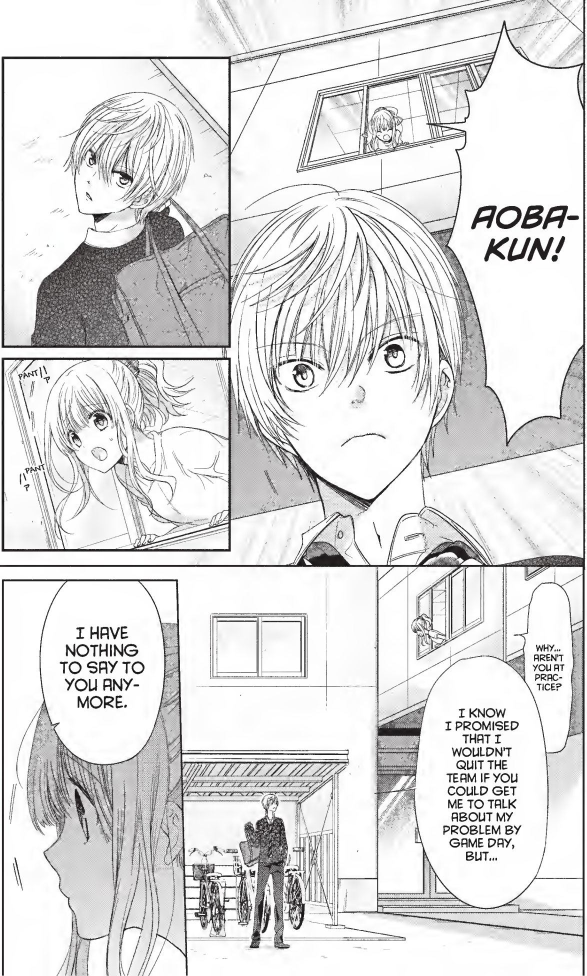
NAO INOHARA
BORN JULY 8TH
BLOOD TYPE: AB
HEIGHT: 184CM
FAVORITE FOOD:
HAMBURGER STEAK
KARAAGE

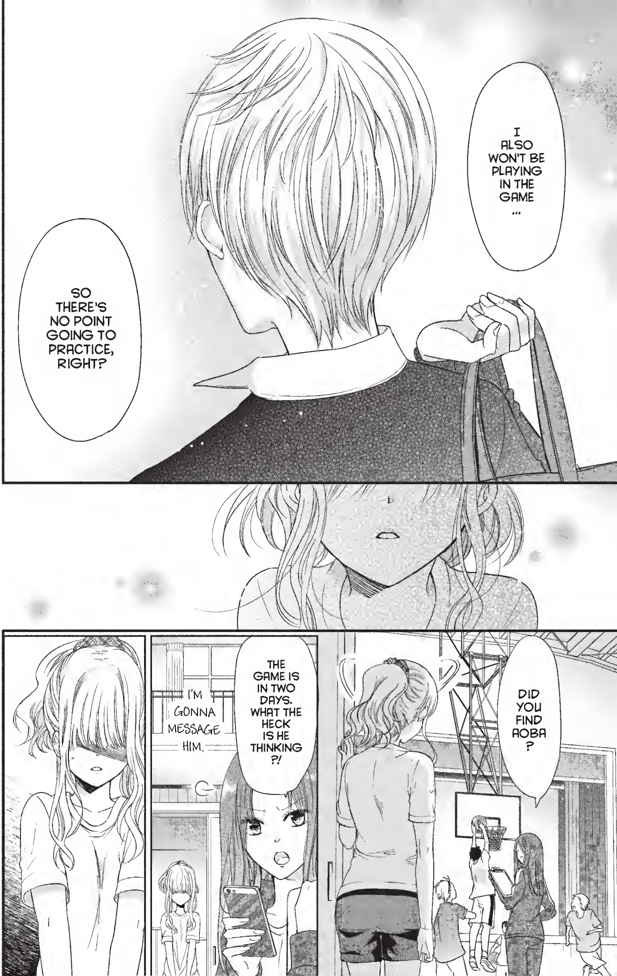
6:30 AM
WOKEN UP BY KOTA
AND ALTERNATE
RINGER SOUNDS

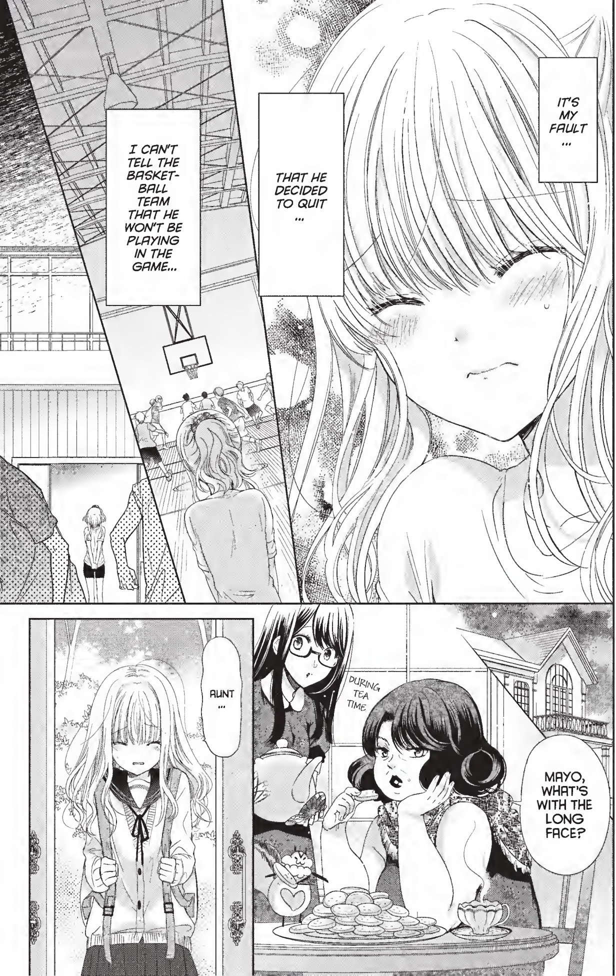

THERE ARE SIX MEMBERS IN THE INDHARA FAMILY.
ONE OF THEM IS A CAT.

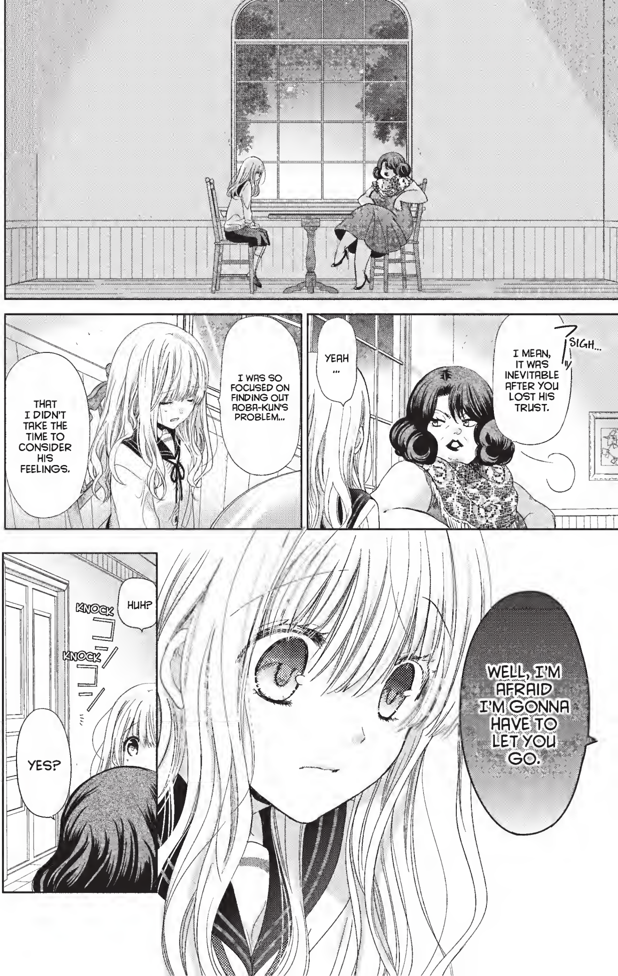

I BETRAYED AOBA-KUN'S TRUST...
CHATTER
CHATTER
ビクビク TWITCH TWITCH
ガタガタ TREMBLE TREMBLE
I BETTER APOLOGIZE FOR HIDING WHO I WAS...
HUP! えいっ
HUH? WHERE'S AOBA?
HM? HE'S NOT HERE.

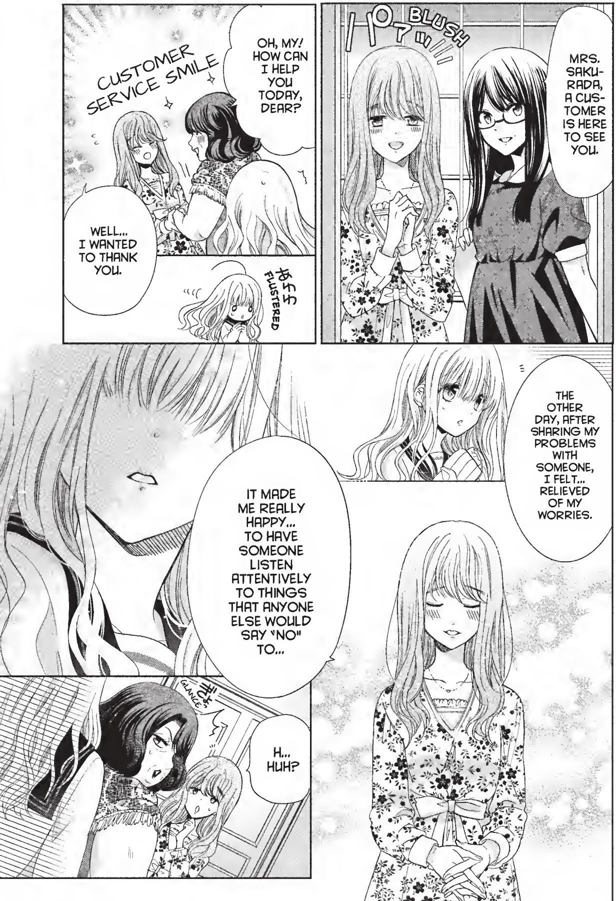

DASH
WOW! LOOK AT HER! SHE'S MOVING HER LIMBS LIKE CRAZY, BUT SHE'S SO SLOW.
もて もて
FLAIL FLAIL
YOU'RE RIGHT.
WHY, AOBA-KUN?
IS IT 'CAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE ME?
AOBA-KUN!
HE CAN'T HEAR ME.

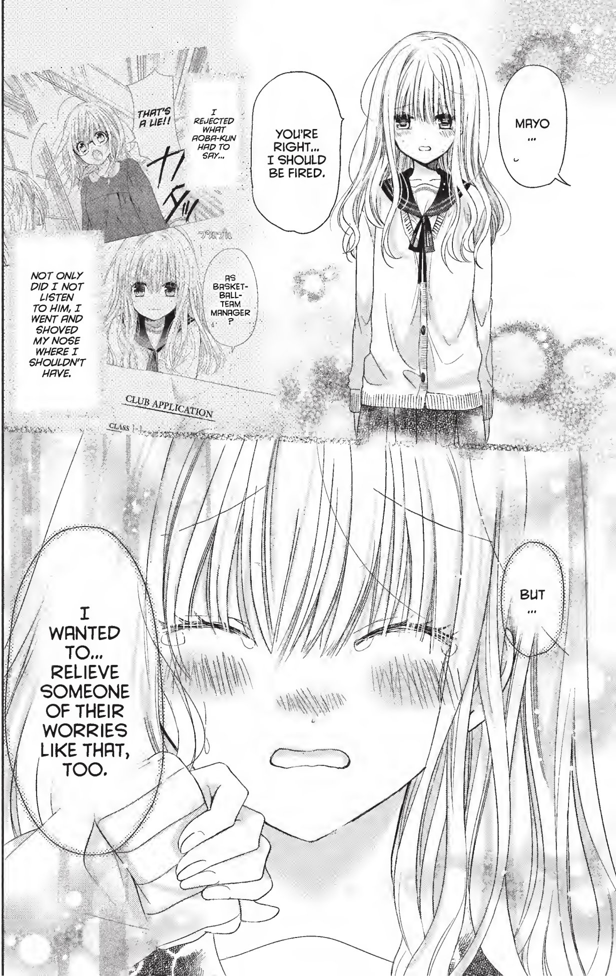

AOBA-KUN!
PANT PANT
WHY... AREN'T YOU AT PRACTICE?
I KNOW I PROMISED THAT I WOULDN'T QUIT THE TEAM IF YOU COULD GET ME TO TALK ABOUT MY PROBLEM BY GAME DAY, BUT...
I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU ANYMORE.

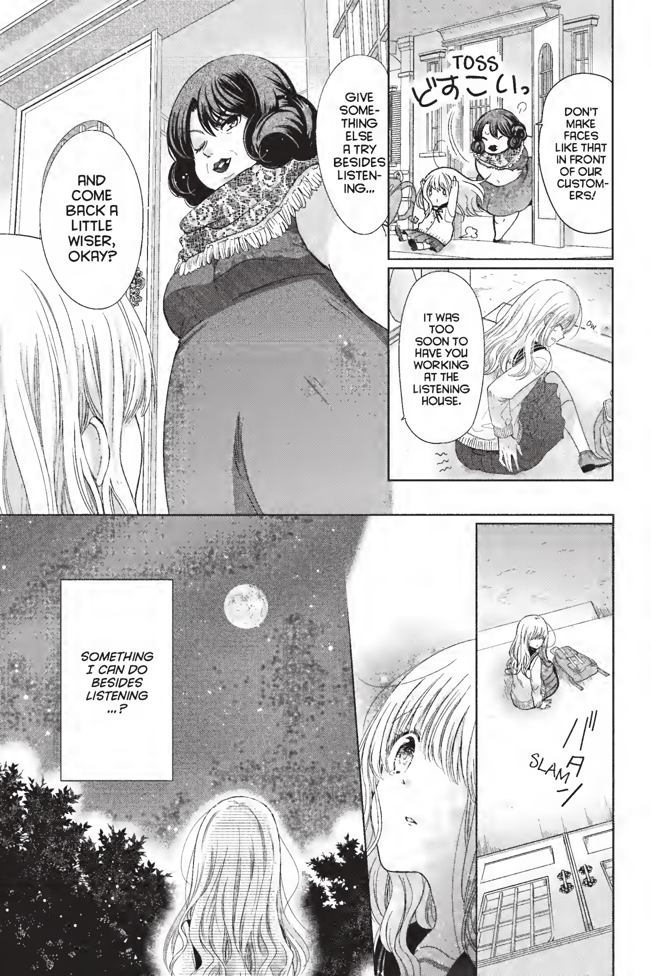

I ALSO WON'T BE PLAYING IN THE GAME ...
SO THERE'S NO POINT GOING TO PRACTICE, RIGHT?
DID YOU FIND AOBA?
THE GAME IS IN TWO DAYS. WHAT THE HECK IS HE THINKING?!
I'M GONNA MESSAGE HIM.

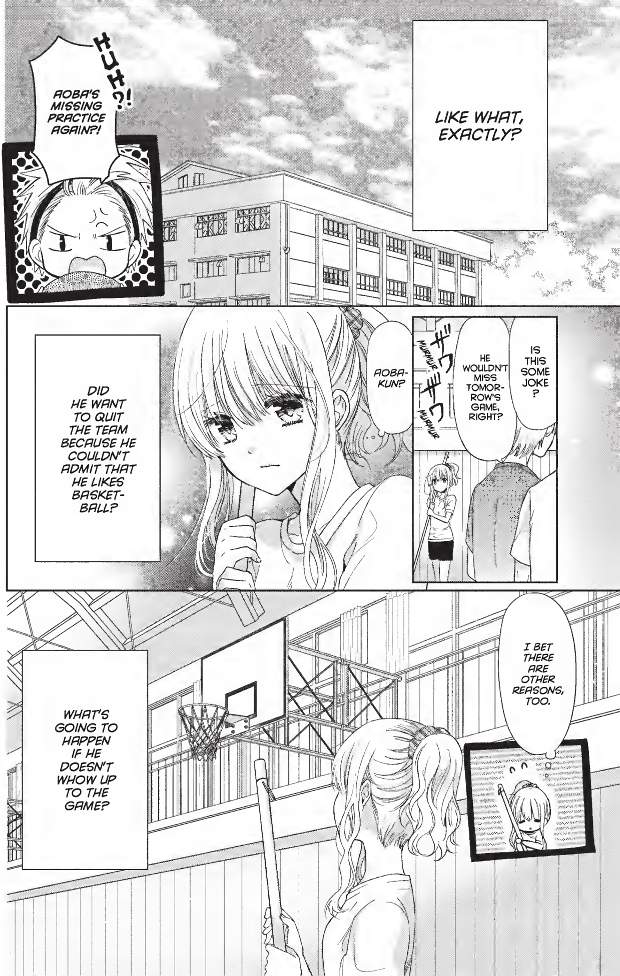

IT'S MY FAULT ...
THAT HE DECIDED TO QUIT ...
I CAN'T TELL THE BASKETBALL TEAM THAT HE WON'T BE PLAYING IN THE GAME...
MAYO, WHAT'S WITH THE LONG FACE?
DURING TEA TIME
AUNT ...

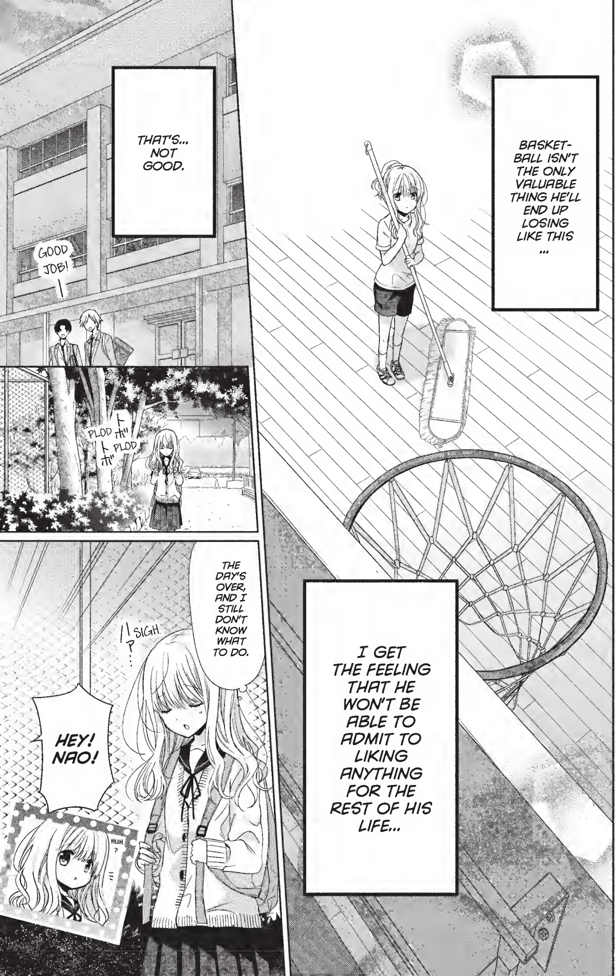

SIGH...
I MEAN, IT WAS INEVITABLE AFTER YOU LOST HIS TRUST.
YEAH ...
I WAS SO FOCUSED ON FINDING OUT AOBA-KUN'S PROBLEM...
THAT I DIDN'T TAKE THE TIME TO CONSIDER HIS FEELINGS.
WELL, I'M AFRAID I'M GONNA HAVE TO LET YOU GO.
HUH?
KNOCK
KNOCK
YES?

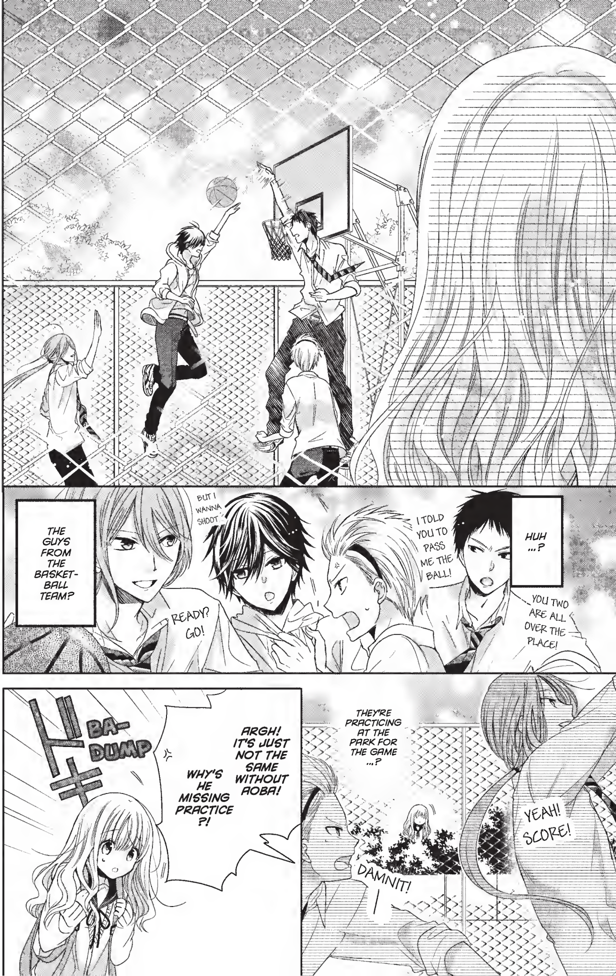

パアッ
BLUSH
MRS. SAKURADA, A CUSTOMER IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
OH, MY! HOW CAN I HELP YOU TODAY, DEAR?
CUSTOMER SERVICE SMILE
WELL... I WANTED TO THANK YOU.
あゎゎ
FLUSTERED
THE OTHER DAY, AFTER SHARING MY PROBLEMS WITH SOMEONE, I FELT... RELIEVED OF MY WORRIES.
IT MADE ME REALLY HAPPY... TO HAVE SOMEONE LISTEN ATTENTIVELY TO THINGS THAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD SAY "NO" TO...
ちらっ
GLANCE
H... HUH?

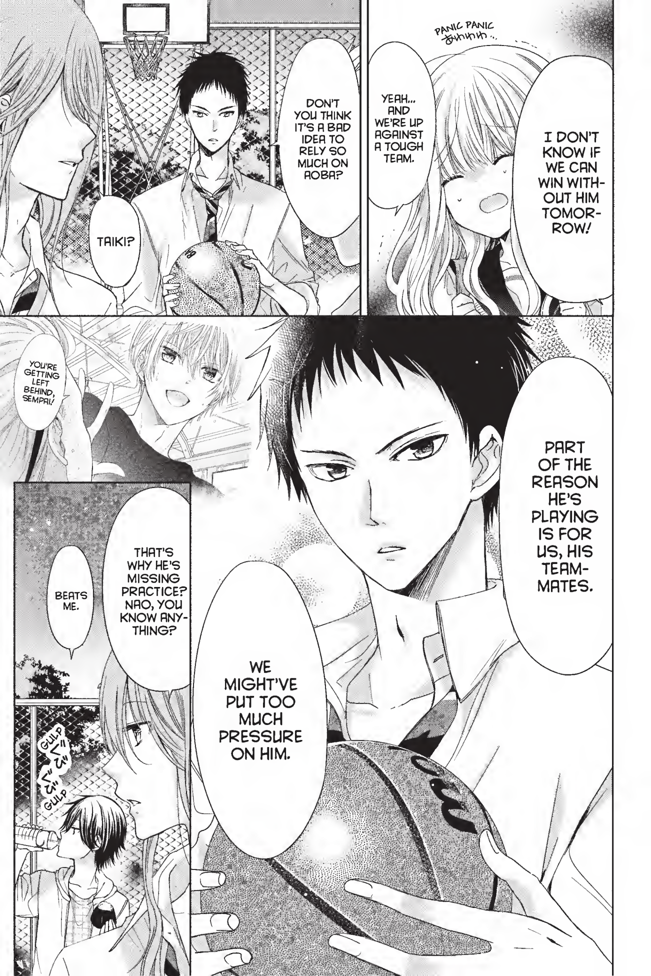

MAYO...
YOU'RE RIGHT... I SHOULD BE FIRED.
I REJECTED WHAT AOBA-KUN HAD TO SAY...
THAT'S A LIE!!
ガタッ
プルプル
AS BASKETBALL-TEAM MANAGER?
NOT ONLY DID I NOT LISTEN TO HIM, I WENT AND SHOVED MY NOSE WHERE I SHOULDN'T HAVE.
CLUB APPLICATION
CLASS 1-1
BUT...
I WANTED TO... RELIEVE SOMEONE OF THEIR WORRIES LIKE THAT, TOO.

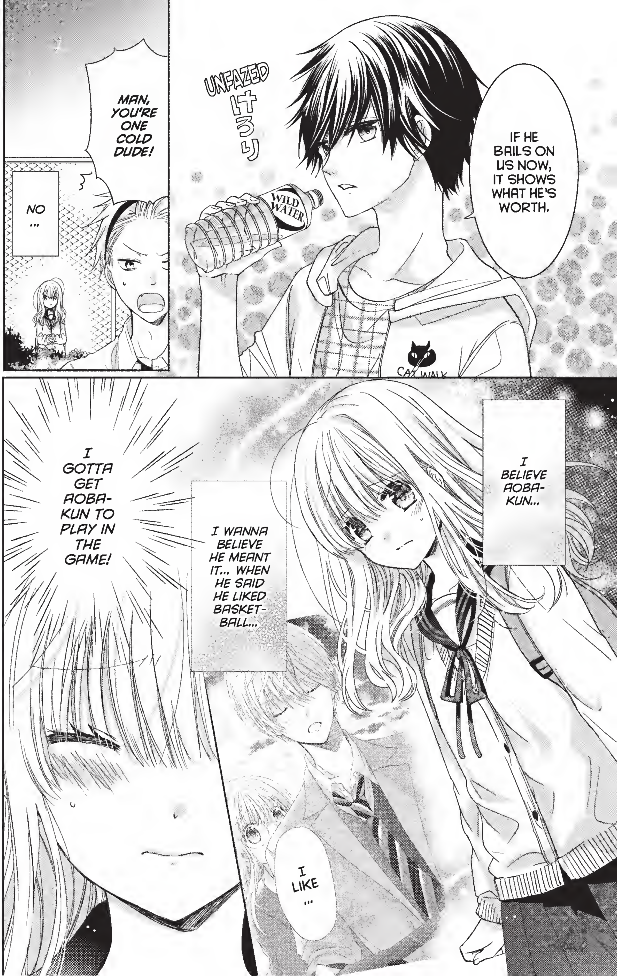

TOSS
どすこいっ
DON'T MAKE FACES LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF OUR CUSTOMERS!
OW
IT WAS TOO SOON TO HAVE YOU WORKING AT THE LISTENING HOUSE.
GIVE SOMETHING ELSE A TRY BESIDES LISTENING...
AND COME BACK A LITTLE WISER, OKAY?
バァン
SLAM
SOMETHING I CAN DO BESIDES LISTENING ...?

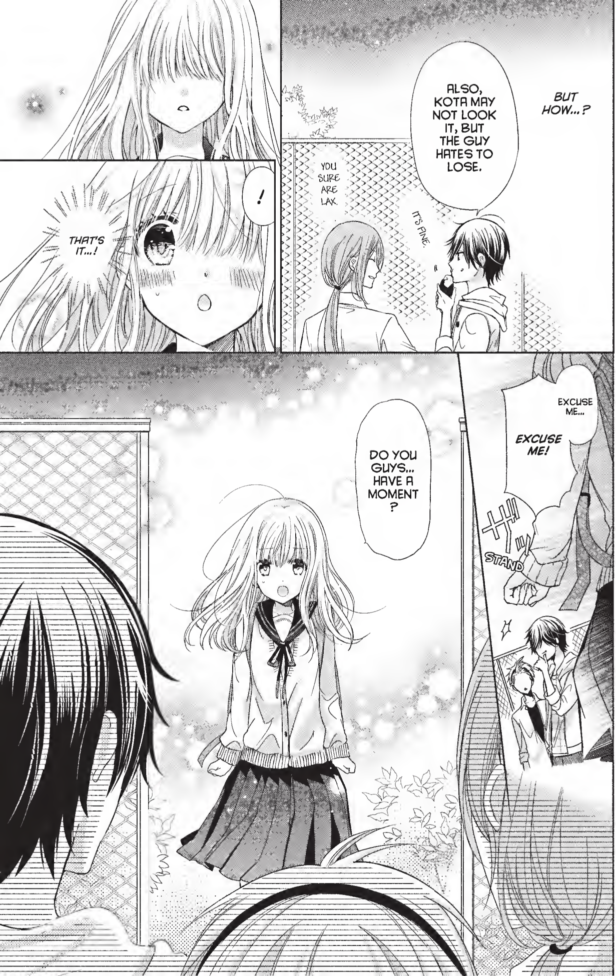

LIKE WHAT, EXACTLY?
HUH?!
AOBA'S MISSING PRACTICE AGAIN?!
IS THIS SOME JOKE?
HE WOULDN'T MISS TOMORROW'S GAME, RIGHT?
ザワザワ
MURMUR MURMUR
AOBA-KUN?
DID HE WANT TO QUIT THE TEAM BECAUSE HE COULDN'T ADMIT THAT HE LIKES BASKETBALL?
I BET THERE ARE OTHER REASONS, TOO.
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IF HE DOESN'T WHOW UP TO THE GAME?

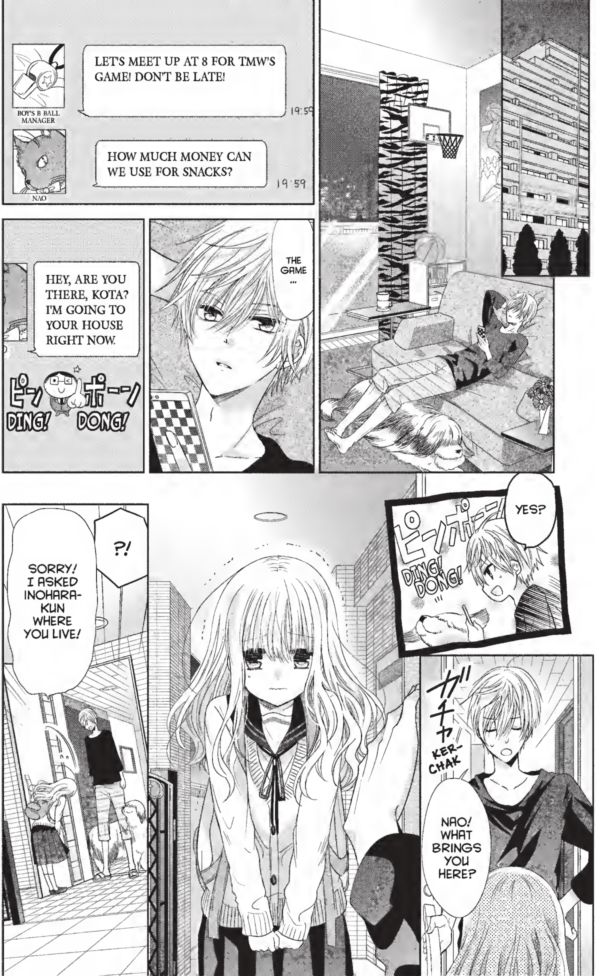

BASKETBALL ISN'T THE ONLY VALUABLE THING HE'LL END UP LOSING LIKE THIS ...
I GET THE FEELING THAT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO ADMIT TO LIKING ANYTHING FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE...
THAT'S... NOT GOOD.
GOOD JOB!
トボ PLOD
トボ PLOD
THE DAY'S OVER, AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
SIGH
HEY! NAO!
HUH ?

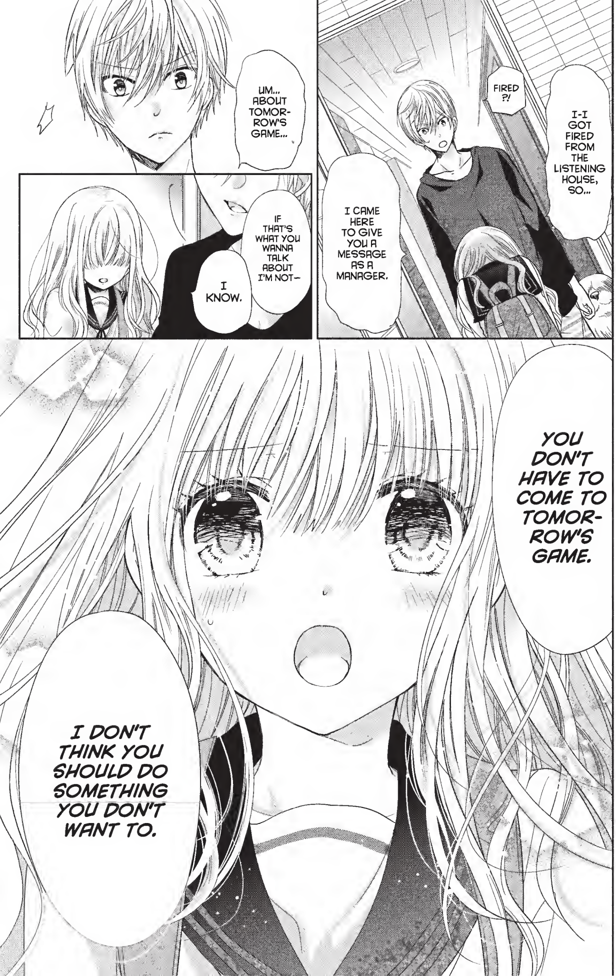

HUH ...?
YOU TWO ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE!
I TOLD YOU TO PASS ME THE BALL!
BUT I WANNA SHOOT
READY? GO!
THE GUYS FROM THE BASKETBALL TEAM?
THEY'RE PRACTICING AT THE PARK FOR THE GAME ...?
YEAH! SCORE!
DAMNIT!
ARGH! IT'S JUST NOT THE SAME WITHOUT AOBA!
WHY'S HE MISSING PRACTICE?!
ドキ
BA-DUMP

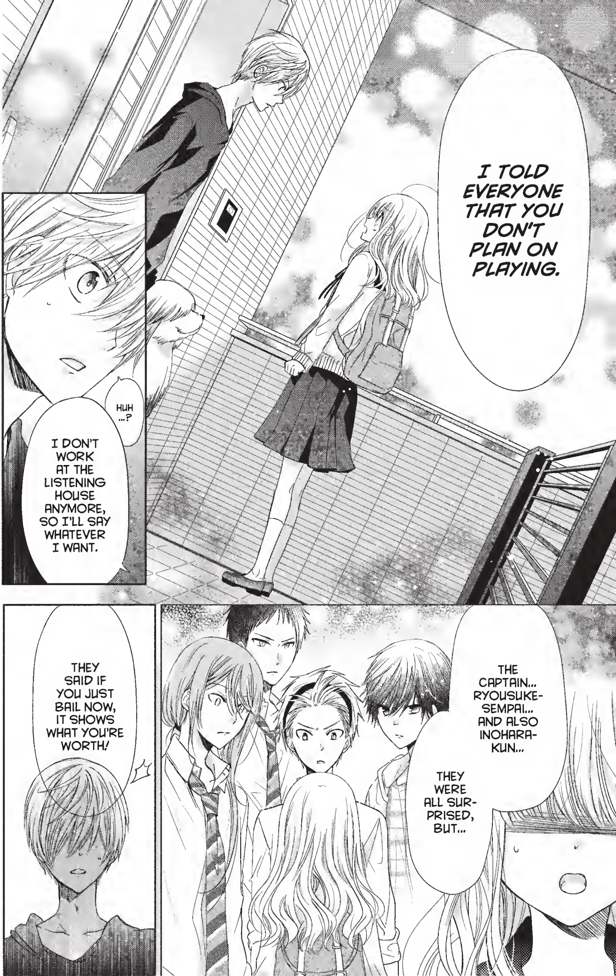

PANIC PANIC あわわわ…
I DON'T KNOW IF WE CAN WIN WITHOUT HIM TOMORROW!
YEAH... AND WE'RE UP AGAINST A TOUGH TEAM.
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A BAD IDEA TO RELY SO MUCH ON AOBA?
TAIKI?
PART OF THE REASON HE'S PLAYING IS FOR US, HIS TEAMMATES.
YOU'RE GETTING LEFT BEHIND, SEMPAI!
WE MIGHT'VE PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON HIM.
THAT'S WHY HE'S MISSING PRACTICE? NAO, YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
BEATS ME.
GULP ごく
ごく GULP

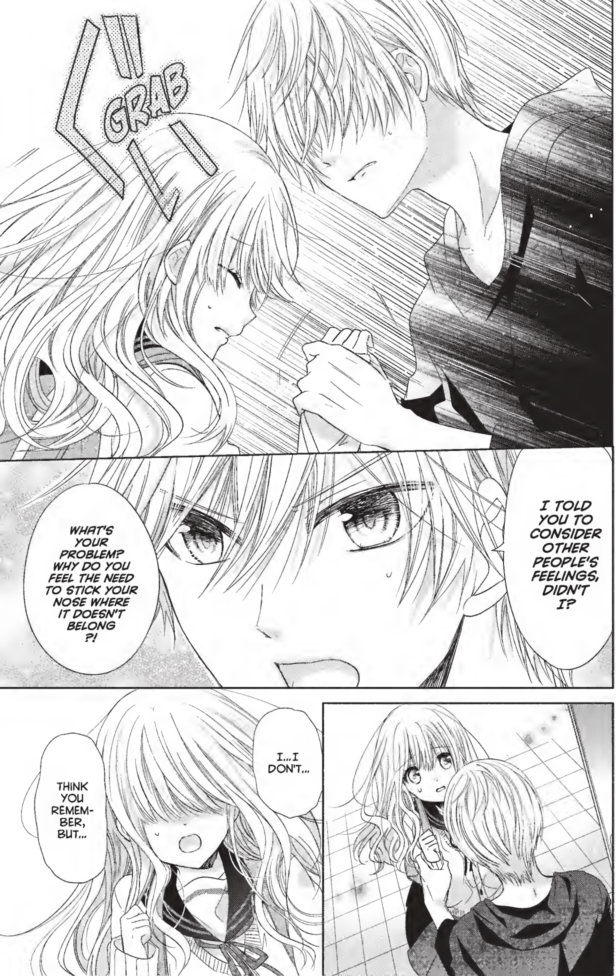

IF HE BAILS ON US NOW, IT SHOWS WHAT HE'S WORTH.
UNFAZED けろり
WILD WATER
CAT WALK
MAN, YOU'RE ONE COLD DUDE!
NO ...
I BELIEVE AOBA-KUN...
I WANNA BELIEVE HE MEANT IT... WHEN HE SAID HE LIKED BASKETBALL...
I LIKE ...
I GOTTA GET AOBA-KUN TO PLAY IN THE GAME!

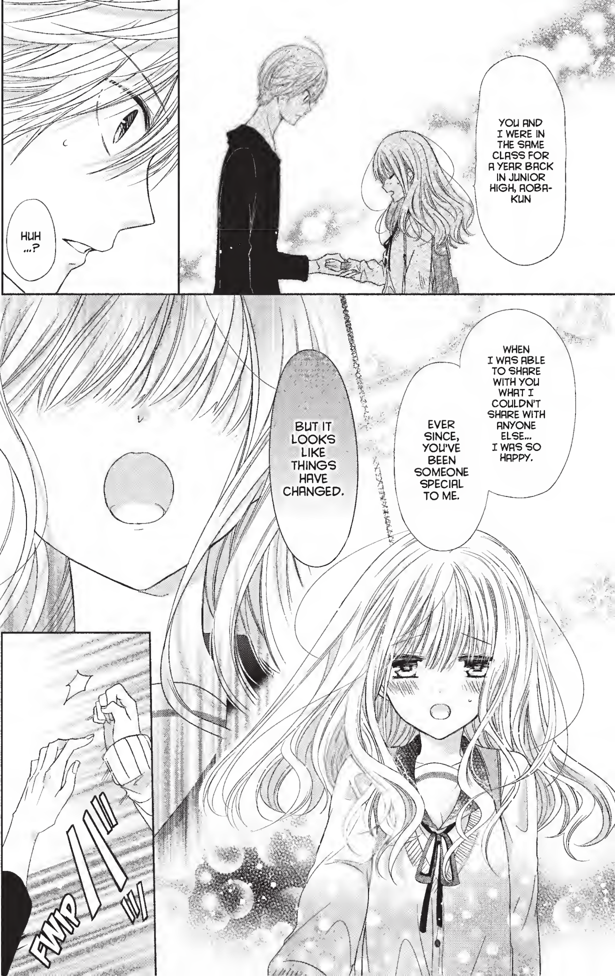

BUT HOW...?
ALSO, KOTA MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT THE GUY HATES TO LOSE.
IT'S FINE.
YOU SURE ARE LAX.
!
THAT'S IT...!
EXCUSE ME...
EXCUSE ME!
STAND
DO YOU GUYS... HAVE A MOMENT?

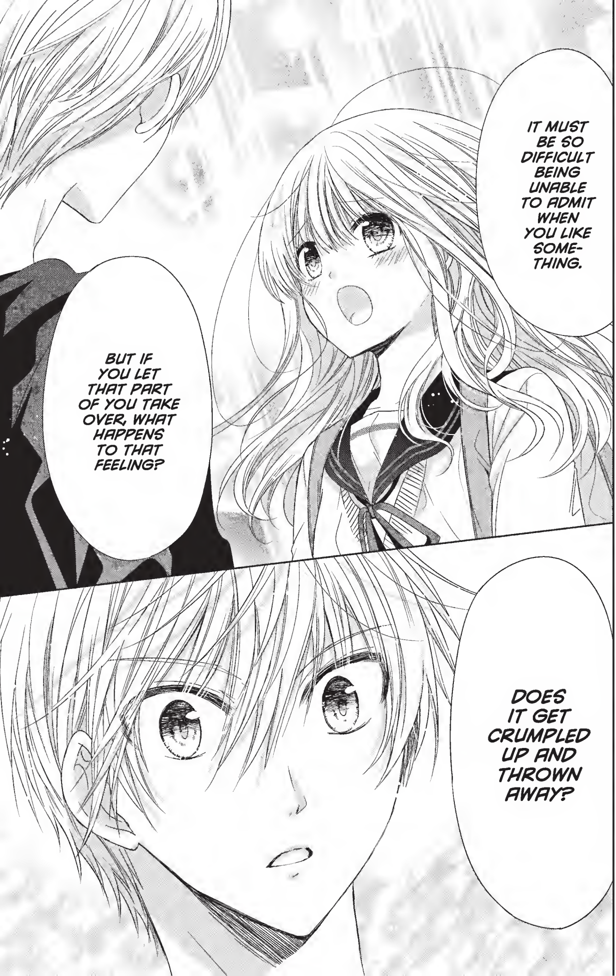

BOY'S B BALL MANAGER
LET'S MEET UP AT 8 FOR TMW'S GAME! DON'T BE LATE!
19:59
NAO
HOW MUCH MONEY CAN WE USE FOR SNACKS?
19:59
THE GAME ...
HEY, ARE YOU THERE, KOTA? I'M GOING TO YOUR HOUSE RIGHT NOW.
ピーン ポーン
DING! DONG!
ピーンポーン
DING! DONG!
YES?
ガチャ
KER-CHAK
NAO! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
?!
SORRY! I ASKED INOHARA-KUN WHERE YOU LIVE!

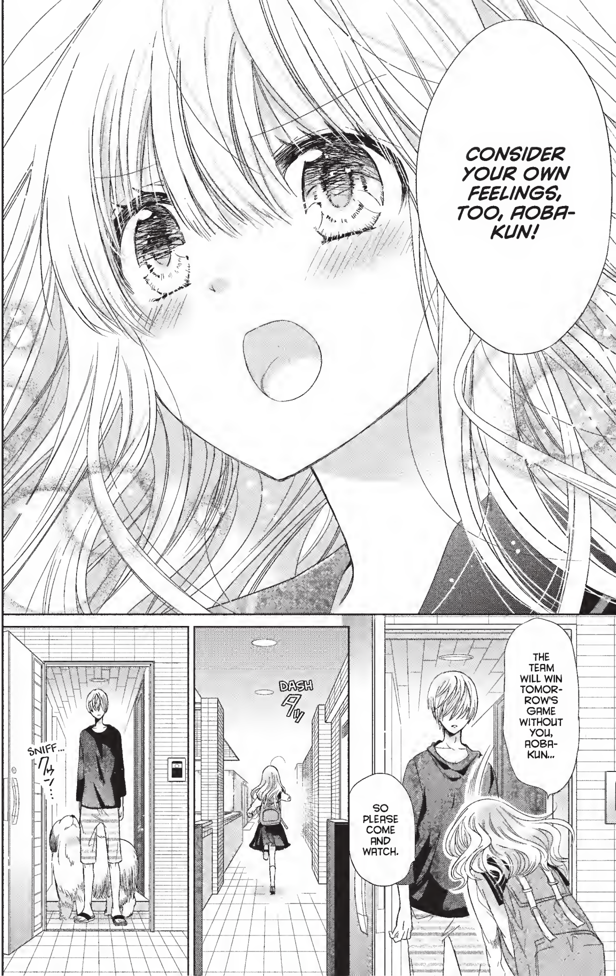

I-I GOT FIRED FROM THE LISTENING HOUSE, SO...
FIRED?!
I CAME HERE TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE AS A MANAGER.
UM... ABOUT TOMORROW'S GAME...
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANNA TALK ABOUT I'M NOT—
I KNOW.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO COME TO TOMORROW'S GAME.
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD DO SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT TO.

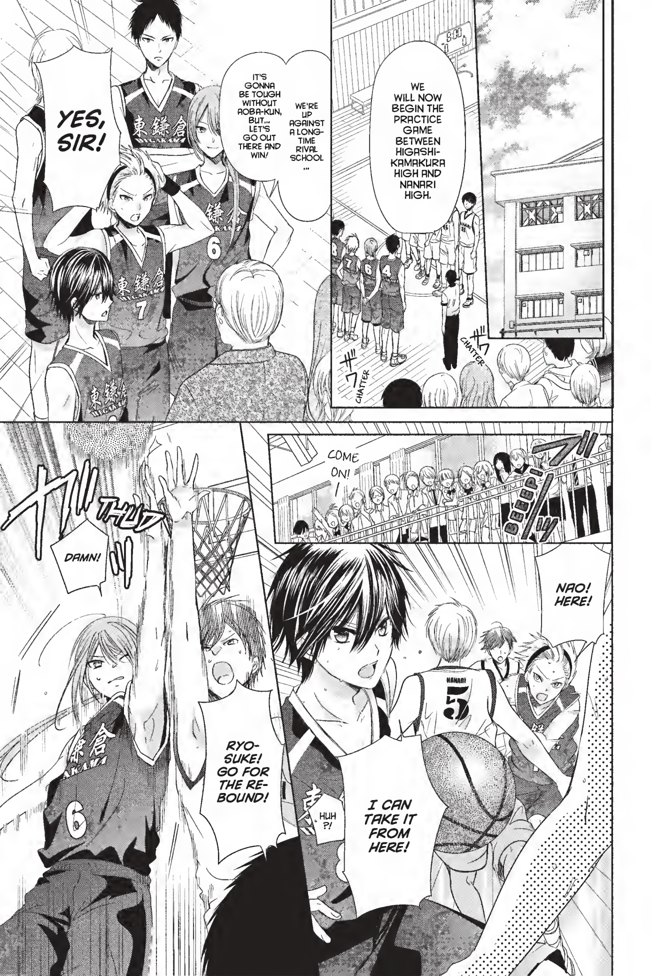

I TOLD EVERYONE THAT YOU DON'T PLAN ON PLAYING.
HUH ...?
I DON'T WORK AT THE LISTENING HOUSE ANYMORE, SO I'LL SAY WHATEVER I WANT.
THE CAPTAIN... RYOUSUKE-SEMPAI... AND ALSO INOHARA-KUN...
THEY WERE ALL SURPRISED, BUT...
THEY SAID IF YOU JUST BAIL NOW, IT SHOWS WHAT YOU'RE WORTH!

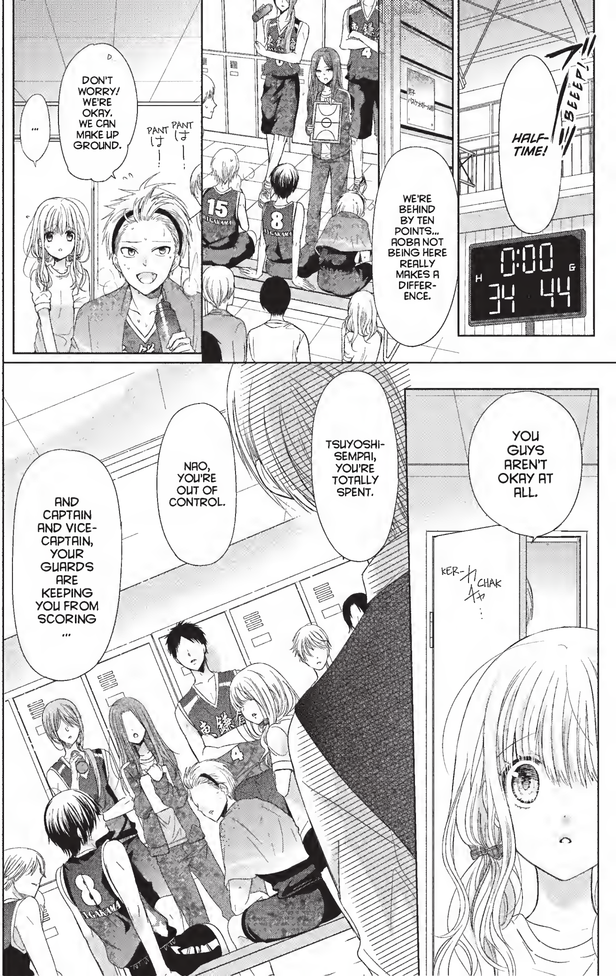

GRAB
I TOLD YOU TO CONSIDER OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS, DIDN'T I?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM? WHY DO YOU FEEL THE NEED TO STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG?!
I...I DON'T...
THINK YOU REMEMBER, BUT...

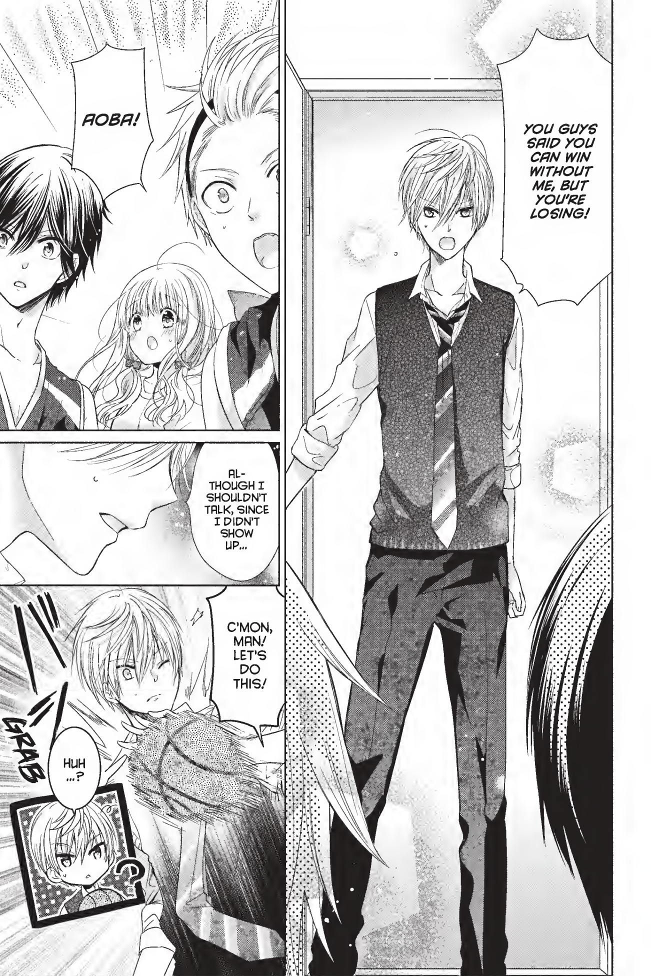

YOU AND I WERE IN THE SAME CLASS FOR A YEAR BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH, AOBA-KUN
HUH ...?
WHEN I WAS ABLE TO SHARE WITH YOU WHAT I COULDN'T SHARE WITH ANYONE ELSE... I WAS SO HAPPY.
EVER SINCE, YOU'VE BEEN SOMEONE SPECIAL TO ME.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THINGS HAVE CHANGED.
FWIP

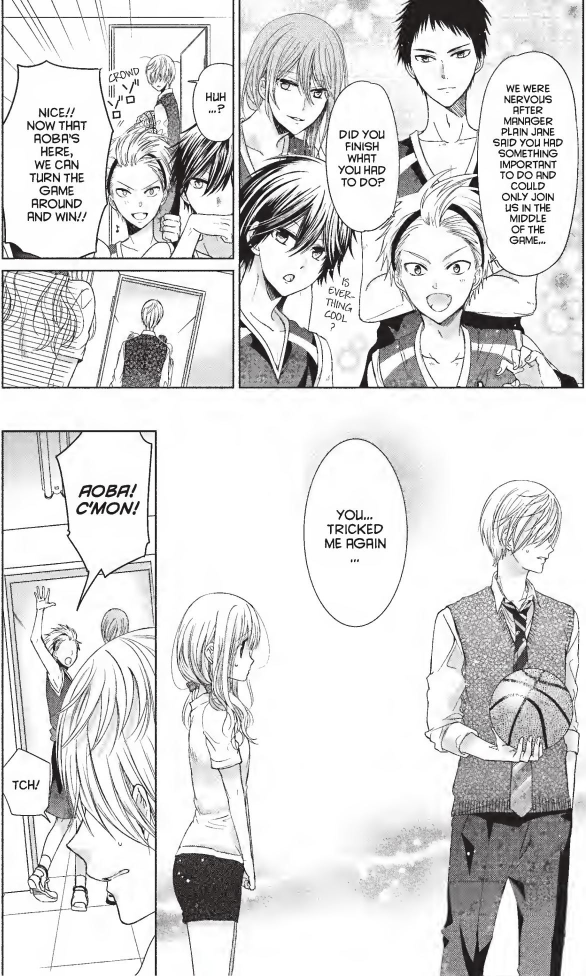

IT MUST BE SO DIFFICULT BEING UNABLE TO ADMIT WHEN YOU LIKE SOMETHING.
BUT IF YOU LET THAT PART OF YOU TAKE OVER, WHAT HAPPENS TO THAT FEELING?
DOES IT GET CRUMPLED UP AND THROWN AWAY?

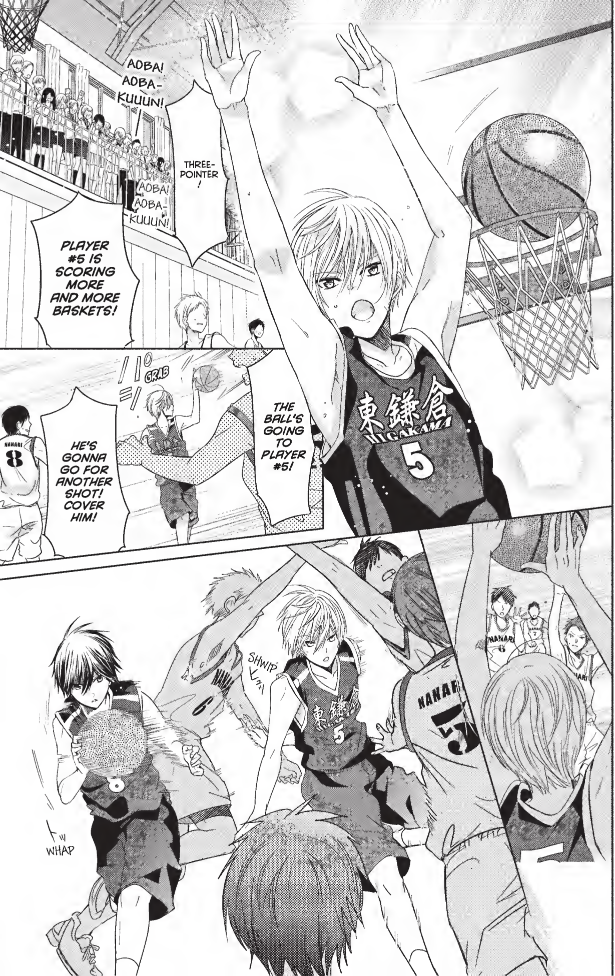

CONSIDER YOUR OWN FEELINGS, TOO, AOBA-KUN!
THE TEAM WILL WIN TOMORROW'S GAME WITHOUT YOU, AOBA-KUN...
SO PLEASE COME AND WATCH.
DASH
タッ
SNIFF...
クゥーン...

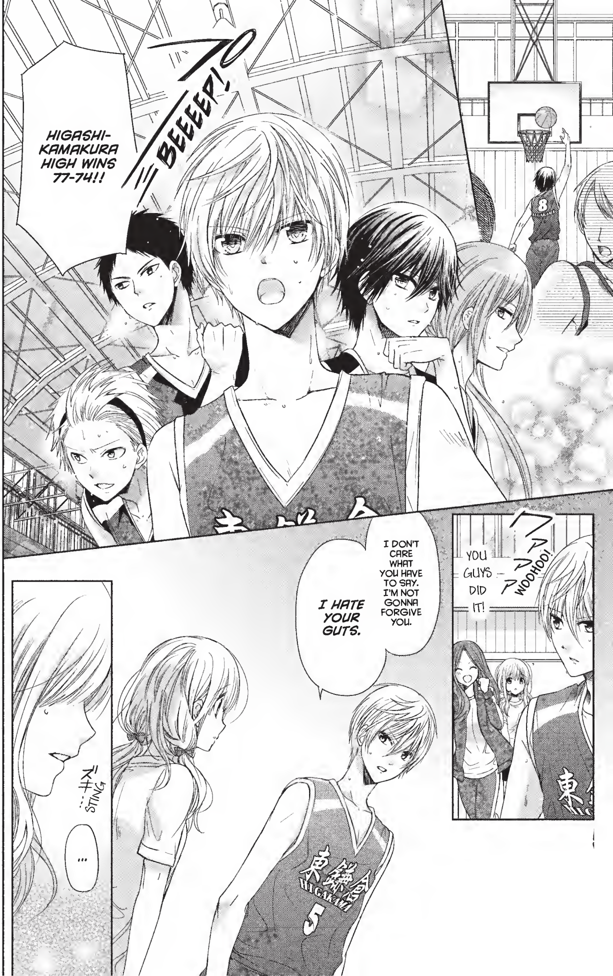

WE WILL NOW BEGIN THE PRACTICE GAME BETWEEN HIGASHI-KAMAKURA HIGH AND NANARI HIGH.
ザワ
CHATTER
ザワ
CHATTER
WE'RE UP AGAINST A LONG-TIME RIVAL SCHOOL...
IT'S GONNA BE TOUGH WITHOUT AOBA-KUN, BUT... LET'S GO OUT THERE AND WIN!
YES, SIR!
東鎌倉
ブー
BEEEP!
COME ON!
NAO! HERE!
NANARI
5
I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE!
HUH?!
RYO-SUKE! GO FOR THE RE-BOUND!
ガン
THUD
DAMN!

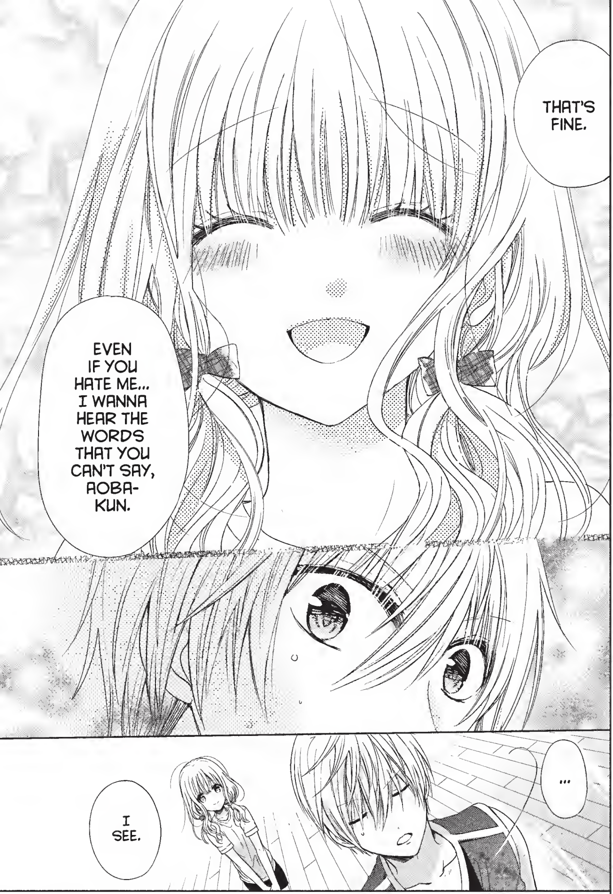

ブー BEEP!
HALF-TIME!
0:00
H 34 44 G
男子バスケットボール部
WE'RE BEHIND BY TEN POINTS... AOBA NOT BEING HERE REALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
DON'T WORRY! WE'RE OKAY. WE CAN MAKE UP GROUND.
PANT は PANT は
...
YOU GUYS AREN'T OKAY AT ALL.
KER-ガ CHAK チャ
TSUYOSHI-SEMPAI, YOU'RE TOTALLY SPENT.
NAO, YOU'RE OUT OF CONTROL.
AND CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAIN, YOUR GUARDS ARE KEEPING YOU FROM SCORING...

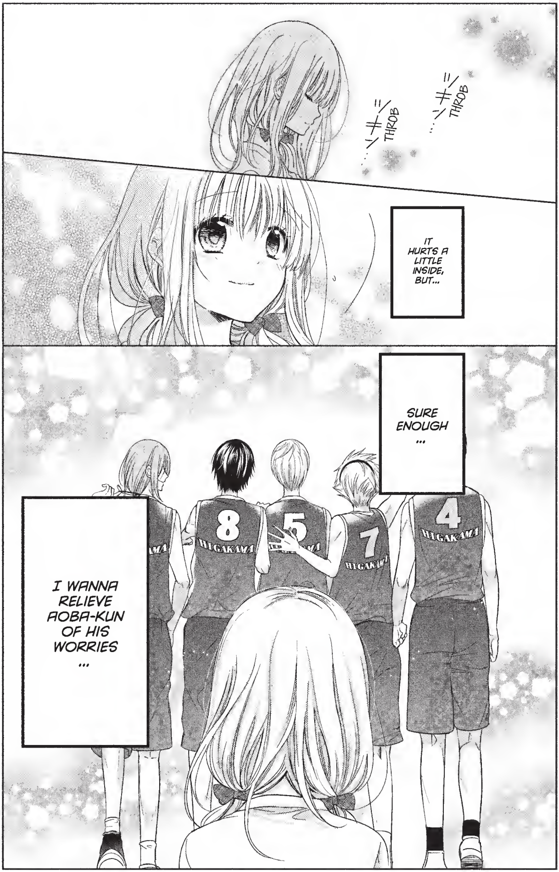

YOU GUYS SAID YOU CAN WIN WITHOUT ME, BUT YOU'RE LOSING!
AOBA!
ALTHOUGH I SHOULDN'T TALK, SINCE I DIDN'T SHOW UP...
C'MON, MAN! LET'S DO THIS!
GRAB
HUH ...?


WE WERE NERVOUS AFTER MANAGER PLAIN JANE SAID YOU HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO AND COULD ONLY JOIN US IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME...
DID YOU FINISH WHAT YOU HAD TO DO?
IS EVERTHING COOL?
HUH ...?
CROWD
NICE!! NOW THAT AOBA'S HERE, WE CAN TURN THE GAME AROUND AND WIN!!
YOU... TRICKED ME AGAIN ...
AOBA! C'MON!
TCH!

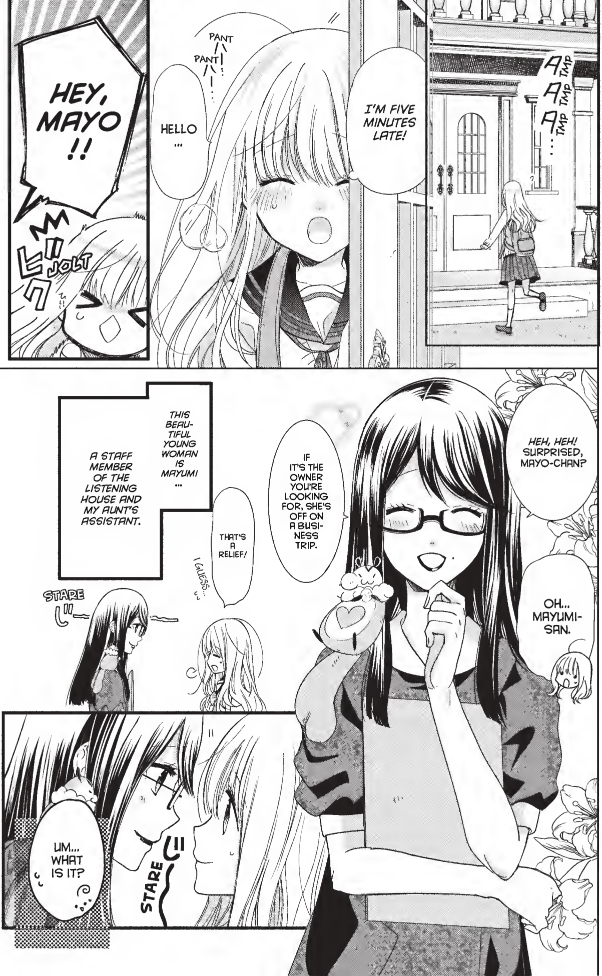

THREE-POINTER!
AOBA! AOBA-KUUUN!
AOBA! AOBA-KUUUN!
PLAYER #5 IS SCORING MORE AND MORE BASKETS!
東鎌倉
HIGAKAMA
5
THE BALL'S GOING TO PLAYER #5!
GRAB
HE'S GONNA GO FOR ANOTHER SHOT! COVER HIM!
NANARI
8
NANARI
5
SHWIP
ビュッ
東鎌倉
5
ドッ
WHAP

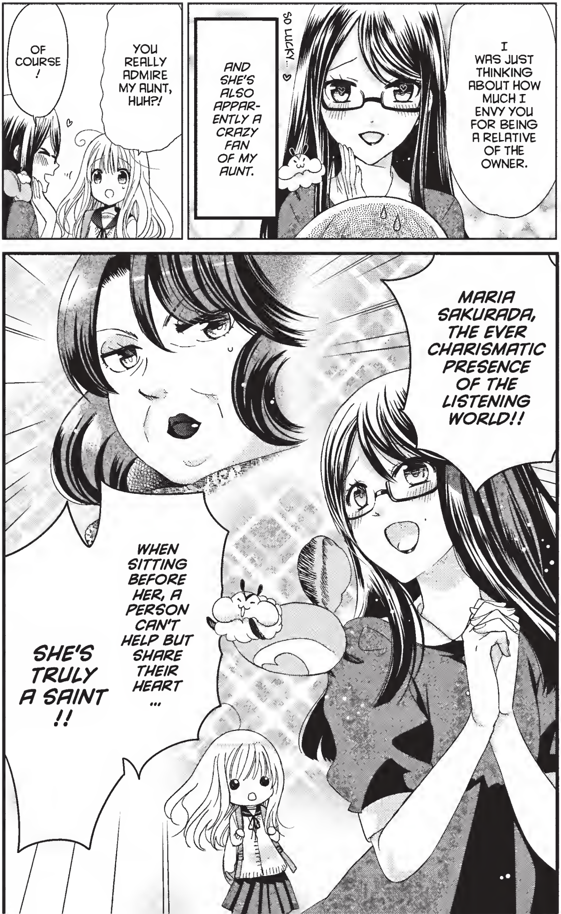

BEEEEP!
HIGASHI-KAMAKURA HIGH WINS 77-74!!
ワァァァ
WOOHOO!
YOU GUYS DID IT!
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY. I'M NOT GONNA FORGIVE YOU.
I HATE YOUR GUTS.
ズキ…
STING
…
東鎌倉
HIGAKAMA
5

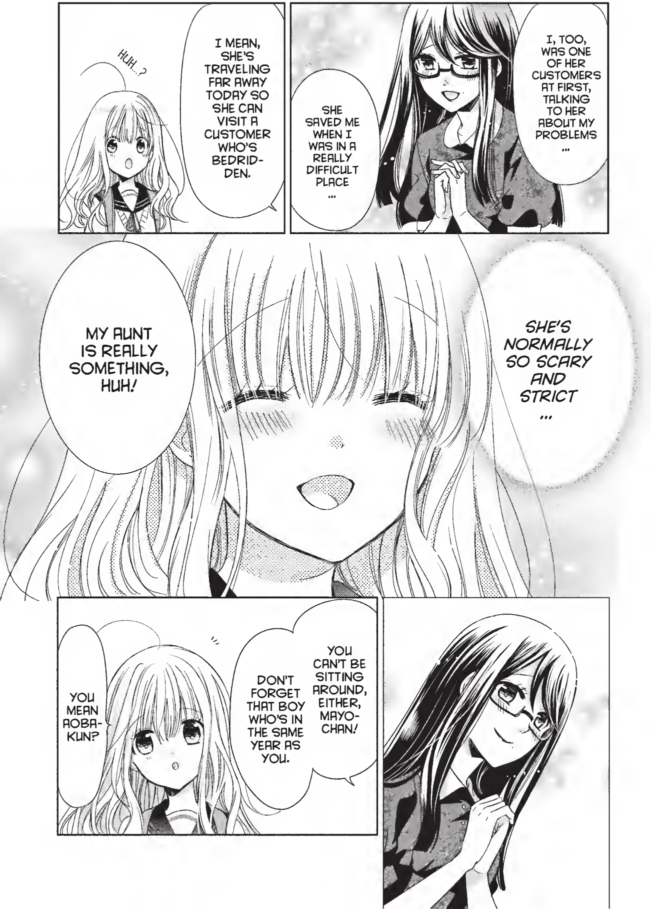

THAT'S FINE.
EVEN IF YOU HATE ME... I WANNA HEAR THE WORDS THAT YOU CAN'T SAY, AOBA-KUN.
...
I SEE.

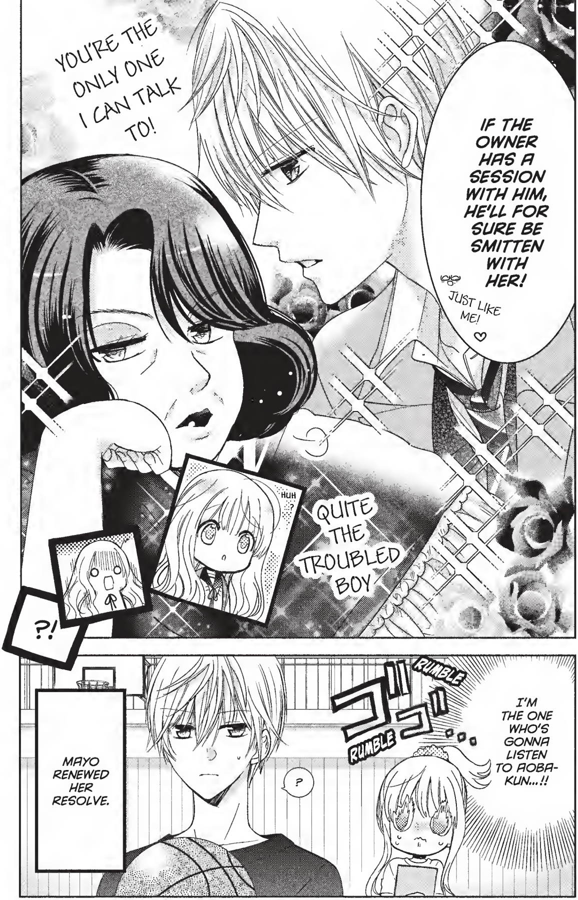

…ドキ THROB
…ドキ THROB
IT HURTS A LITTLE INSIDE, BUT...
SURE ENOUGH ...
I WANNA RELIEVE AOBA-KUN OF HIS WORRIES ...
8
5
7
4
HIGAKAMA

To be continued in volume 2.

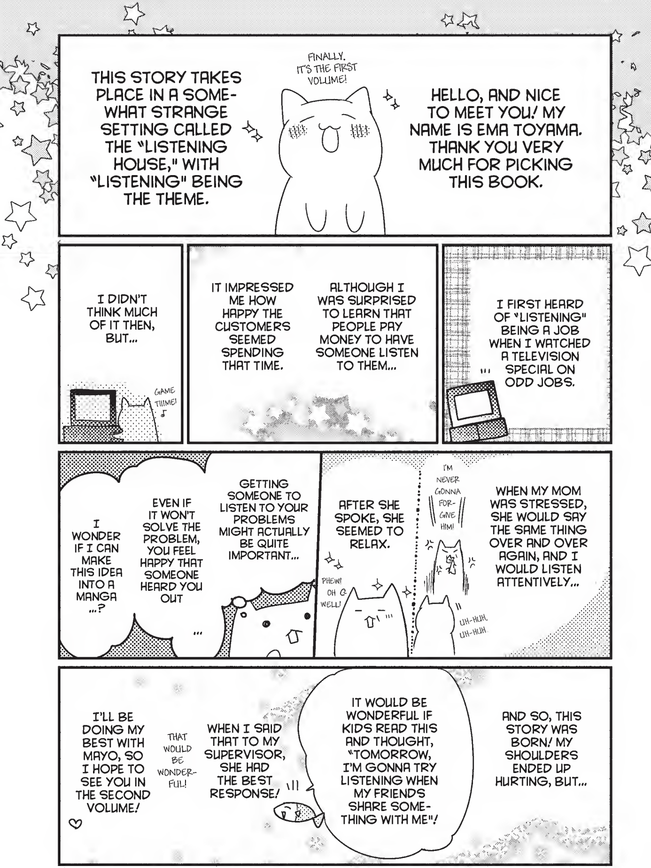

TMP TMP TMP...
I'M FIVE MINUTES LATE!
PANT PANT
HELLO ...
HEY, MAYO !!
JOLT
HEH, HEH! SURPRISED, MAYO-CHAN?
OH... MAYUMI-SAN.
IF IT'S THE OWNER YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, SHE'S OFF ON A BUSINESS TRIP.
THAT'S A RELIEF!
I GUESS...
THIS BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN IS MAYUMI ...
A STAFF MEMBER OF THE LISTENING HOUSE AND MY AUNT'S ASSISTANT.
STARE
STARE
UM... WHAT IS IT?


I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH I ENVY YOU FOR BEING A RELATIVE OF THE OWNER.
SO LUCKY… ♡
AND SHE'S ALSO APPARENTLY A CRAZY FAN OF MY AUNT.
YOU REALLY ADMIRE MY AUNT, HUH?!
OF COURSE!
MARIA SAKURADA, THE EVER CHARISMATIC PRESENCE OF THE LISTENING WORLD!!
WHEN SITTING BEFORE HER, A PERSON CAN'T HELP BUT SHARE THEIR HEART…
SHE'S TRULY A SAINT!!

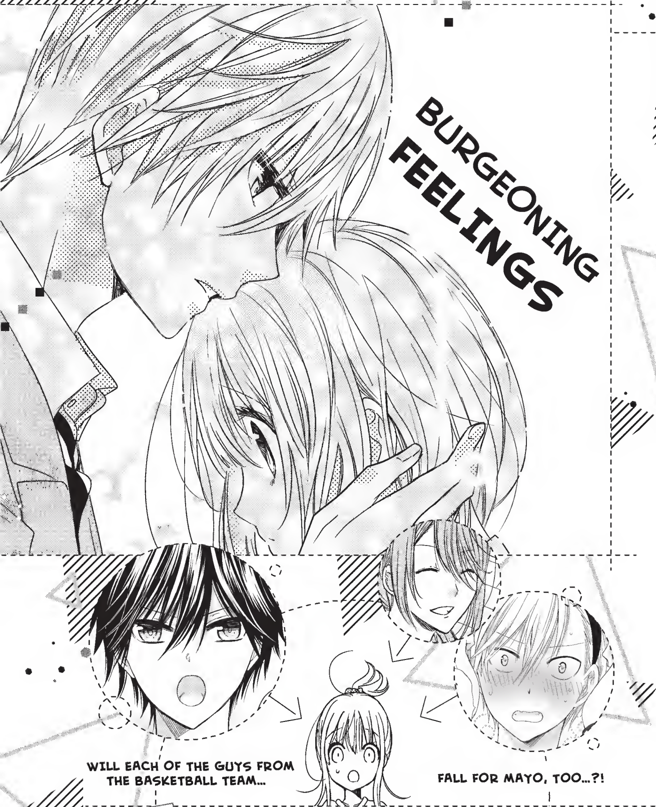

I, TOO, WAS ONE OF HER CUSTOMERS AT FIRST, TALKING TO HER ABOUT MY PROBLEMS ...
SHE SAVED ME WHEN I WAS IN A REALLY DIFFICULT PLACE ...
I MEAN, SHE'S TRAVELING FAR AWAY TODAY SO SHE CAN VISIT A CUSTOMER WHO'S BEDRIDDEN.
HUH...?
*SHE'S NORMALLY SO SCARY AND STRICT ...*
MY AUNT IS REALLY SOMETHING, HUH!
YOU CAN'T BE SITTING AROUND, EITHER, MAYO-CHAN!
DON'T FORGET THAT BOY WHO'S IN THE SAME YEAR AS YOU.
YOU MEAN AOBA-KUN?


IF THE OWNER HAS A SESSION WITH HIM, HE'LL FOR SURE BE SMITTEN WITH HER!
JUST LIKE ME! ♡
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TALK TO!
QUITE THE TROUBLED BOY
HUH ?
?!
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GONNA LISTEN TO AOBA-KUN...!!
RUMBLE
ゴゴ
RUMBLE
?
MAYO RENEWED HER RESOLVE.

The End.

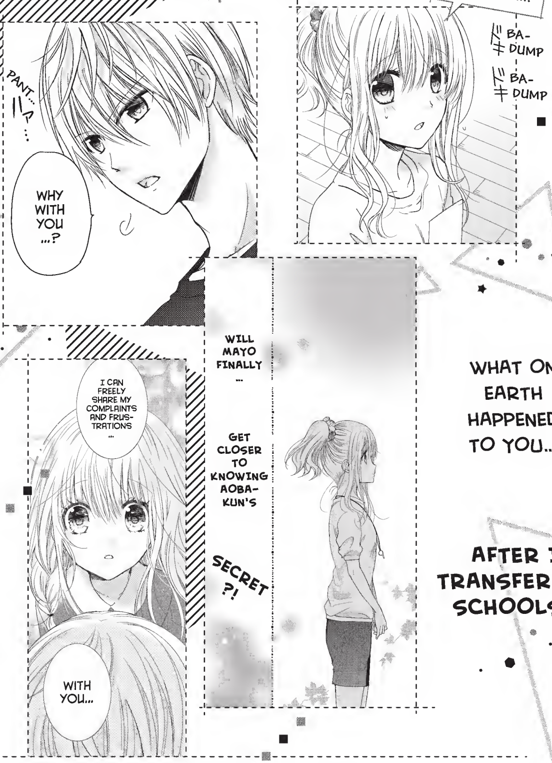

HELLO, AND NICE TO MEET YOU! MY NAME IS EMA TOYAMA. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING THIS BOOK.
FINALLY. IT'S THE FIRST VOLUME!
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE IN A SOMEWHAT STRANGE SETTING CALLED THE "LISTENING HOUSE," WITH "LISTENING" BEING THE THEME.
I FIRST HEARD OF "LISTENING" BEING A JOB WHEN I WATCHED A TELEVISION SPECIAL ON ODD JOBS.
ALTHOUGH I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT PEOPLE PAY MONEY TO HAVE SOMEONE LISTEN TO THEM...
IT IMPRESSED ME HOW HAPPY THE CUSTOMERS SEEMED SPENDING THAT TIME.
I DIDN'T THINK MUCH OF IT THEN, BUT...
GAME TIIIME! ♪
WHEN MY MOM WAS STRESSED, SHE WOULD SAY THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER AGAIN, AND I WOULD LISTEN ATTENTIVELY...
I'M NEVER GONNA FORGIVE HIM!
UH-HUH, UH-HUH
AFTER SHE SPOKE, SHE SEEMED TO RELAX.
PHEW! OH & WELL!
GETTING SOMEONE TO LISTEN TO YOUR PROBLEMS MIGHT ACTUALLY BE QUITE IMPORTANT...
EVEN IF IT WON'T SOLVE THE PROBLEM, YOU FEEL HAPPY THAT SOMEONE HEARD YOU OUT
I WONDER IF I CAN MAKE THIS IDEA INTO A MANGA ...?
...
AND SO, THIS STORY WAS BORN! MY SHOULDERS ENDED UP HURTING, BUT...
IT WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF KIDS READ THIS AND THOUGHT, "TOMORROW, I'M GONNA TRY LISTENING WHEN MY FRIENDS SHARE SOMETHING WITH ME"!
WHEN I SAID THAT TO MY SUPERVISOR, SHE HAD THE BEST RESPONSE!
THAT WOULD BE WONDERFUL!
I'LL BE DOING MY BEST WITH MAYO, SO I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN THE SECOND VOLUME! ♡

Special Thanks☆ TO MY SUPERVISOR, MY ASSISTANT, EVERYONE I SURVEYED ON THE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM, MY DESIGNER, AS WELL AS EVERYONE ELSE WHO WAS INVOLVED!


BURGEONING FEELINGS
WILL EACH OF THE GUYS FROM THE BASKETBALL TEAM...
FALL FOR MAYO, TOO...?!

AOBAKUN NI KIKITAIKOTO

NEXT TIME...


ドキ BA-DUMP
ドキ BA-DUMP
ハァ PANT...
WHY WITH YOU ...?
I CAN FREELY SHARE MY COMPLAINTS AND FRUSTRATIONS ...
WITH YOU...
WILL MAYO FINALLY ...
GET CLOSER TO KNOWING AOBA-KUN'S
SECRET?!

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO YOU...

AFTER I TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS?

THE STORY'S ABOUT TO REALLY GET GOING!

# AOBA-KUN'S CONFESSIONS

**Aoba-kun's Confessions 1**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Aoba-kun's Confessions volume 1 copyright © 2016 Ema Toyama
English translation copyright © 2017 Ema Toyama

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2016 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC,
San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682333976

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by David Rhie
Lettering by YKS Services
Editing by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.